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27 March Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2703124389 [Editorial Report] NOTICE: FBIS wishes to advise that resource constraints will compel discontinuation of the Middle East and South Asia Review effective 1 April.

Kuwaiti Denial on Boat Seizure

A Kuwaiti official denied a report in Kuwait's AL-ANBA' newspaper that the Iranian Navy seized a yacht 23 March which was sailing from Bahrain to Kuwait, AFP reported. The official also denied that members of Kuwait's royal family were aboard such a vessel.

A Bahraini Coast Guard spokesman cited by the agency said the unidentified yacht issued a distress call on the day it was alleged to have been seized. There has been no official confirmation that such a boat has disappeared or been seized, the agency noted.

Lebanon

"Hundreds" of Syrian rocket launchers and artillery emplacements bombarded the eastern (Christian) areas 26 March, firing around 1,500 projectiles that caused property damage and inflicted civilian casualties, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

The Lebanese Army responded, hitting Syrian positions near Beirut and in the Al-Biqa' Valley. The radio claimed that six Syrian soldiers were killed in southern Beirut when Lebanese Army fire destroyed two Syrian rocket launchers the previous day.

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon cited reports that seven Syrians were killed in other areas during the artillery exchanges, which were of an intensity and magnitude that have "not been witnessed in 5 years." Radio Free Lebanon stated that 9 Syrians were killed and 17 wounded in the clashes 22-24 March.

The radio also broadcast an announcement by the Army Command in East Beirut warning Lebanese citizens living near Syrian emplacements to leave as soon as possible to avoid endangering their lives.

On the Muslim side, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio accused General Michel 'Awn's "clique" of escalating the fighting and of shelling the residence of Salim al-Huss, the prime minister in West Beirut. The Lebanese Army commander in West Beirut issued a statement over Beirut radio urging Gen 'Awn to stop the "frenzied bombardment" and observe an Easter cease-fire.

At a 24 March news conference reported by Voice of Lebanon, Gen 'Awn stressed he would accept nothing short of Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon and that he does not fear the results of a battle. Even if Beirut is "destroyed" by the Syrians, it will be rebuilt, he asserted.

In response, Damascus radio cited a TISHRIN editorial that viewed 'Awn's remarks as a declaration of war on the Lebanese people, adding that the Lebanese are capable of ending his "tyranny."

According to Jerusalem radio, "tens of thousands" of refugees have left the areas of fighting in Beirut to stay with relatives in southern Lebanon.

Israel

Two Arabs were killed and 11 injured in clashes with the Israel Defense Force (IDF) in the Gaza Strip 25 March, Jerusalem radio reported. Two other Arabs were found dead the same day, the radio said, adding that they were apparently assassinated by residents who suspected them of collaborating with the authorities.

An Arab youth from Tulkarm died the previous day of wounds sustained in a clash with IDF soldiers, Jerusalem television noted. Police suspect that an Israeli civilian was responsible for the killing of a 14-year-old youth in the West Bank on 23 March, the report added.

According to Radio Monte Carlo, Palestinian leaders in the West Bank have decided to suspend their contacts with Israeli politicians until Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has returned from his scheduled visit to the United States.

PLO-U.S. Talks

The PLO Executive Committee met in Tunis 23-25 March to discuss the dialogue with the United States, the intifadah (uprising), and other issues, according to a PLO statement cited by Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio. The committee expressed "appreciation" for the "seriousness" characterizing the talks with the United States and also stressed the need to begin preparations for an international conference on the Middle East.

The statement criticized "some Palestinian quarters" for having "departed from the traditional norms" of dialogue between comrades.

A British press report that the PLO has agreed to allow Palestinians from the occupied territories to begin negotiations with the Israeli authorities is "completely untrue" and this issue was "absolutely not discussed" during the talks in Tunis, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio reported citing a PLO spokesman.

Two Palestinian notables from the occupied territories who attended a conference in Lausanne, Switzerland, on the Middle East crisis also denied remarks attributed to them that the PLO had agreed to such talks with the Israelis, Jerusalem television reported.

Tripartite Summit

Egypt's President Husni Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a joint news conference after meeting in Ismailia 25 March, MENA reported. Noting that the talks dealt with his impending visit to the United States, Mubarak said there are "positive signs in the international arena from the United States and the European countries," and he urged Israel to respond to these signs so a comprehensive and full solution of the Middle East problem could be achieved.

Asked about Saudi King Fahd's upcoming visit to Cairo, Mubarak confirmed that Egypt's relations with the Arab League will be among the subjects discussed.

The Abu Dhabi paper AL-ITTIHAD reported that Mubarak, Husayn, and 'Arafat agreed on a five-point plan that includes a call for the United States to play a direct role in convincing Israel to embark on preparatory procedures to convene an international conference, according to WAKH.

Iraq

King Fahd Visit—King Fahd declared on arrival at Baghdad International Airport 25 March that relations between Iraq and Saudi Arabia "serve the common interests of the entire Arab and Islamic nations," INA reported.

President Saddam Husayn and King Fahd began their talks the following day and discussed bilateral relations and Arab and international situations, the agency noted.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and his Saudi counterpart also met for talks 26 March and discussed the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations and other issues of mutual interest, according to INA.

King Fahd could be "the ideal person" to overcome the obstacles in the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations, according to the TEHRAN TIMES cited by IRNA. The paper added it hopes Saudi Arabia will use the opportunity of King Fahd's visit to Baghdad to persuade Iraq to "follow a realistic policy."

POW Exchange—Iran's attitude to the comprehensive exchange of POW's is "inhuman," according to INA's international affairs editor. He noted that while Iraq has offered "many initiatives" to solve the problem of the POW's, Iran has rejected the proposal for a comprehensive exchange under the 1949 Geneva Convention.

Iran

Political Developments—Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni discussed the future leadership of the country in a 26 March meeting with the Secretariat of the Council of Experts, IRNA reported. The meeting, which lasted an hour, was attended by Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and other members of the Secretariat, the report indicated.

In another political development, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani resigned his post and has been replaced by Mahmoud Vaezi, until now director general of the Foreign Ministry's Europe Department, according to IRNA. The agency gave no further details on the resignation.

Relations With Turkey—The people of Iran would be "justified" in demanding the severance of relations with Turkey because of that country's attitude toward Islam, asserted Tehran's KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL newspaper cited by IRNA.

The paper wondered if the Turkish rulers can be considered as "believers" while they ban the observance of Islamic dress code for women students.

In a commentary on relations between the two countries, Tehran radio said that Ayatollah Khomeyni's statements on the subject of Islamic dress in Turkey "must not be interpreted by opportunists as interference in the internal affairs of a foreign country."

The commentary denied allegations that Turkish protests against the headdress ban are being "encouraged from other places".

East Bloc Arms—Hungary and Poland have agreed to supply Iran with Soviet-made SAM-7 missiles and warships, according to AFP citing Abu Dhabi's AL-ITTIHAD newspaper.

Afghanistan

A "huge" attack by Pakistani and "extremist" joint forces in Qandahar Province was repulsed by government troops 24 March, Kabul radio reported. A total of 179 "invaders" were killed in the operation and over 200 were wounded.

The Kabul regime army has strengthened its defenses around Kabul city with new outposts, Islamabad radio reported 25 March. The regime has now "admitted" difficulties in transporting relief supplies by road from Kabul to Jalalabad, the radio added.

In another development, the first planeload of relief supplies of food and medicine arrived in Kabul 24 March, according to Delhi radio.

In the Jalalabad area, "fierce" fighting resumed north of the city over the weekend lull when the mujahidin opened a new front for control of the city, according to Islamabad radio. AFP reported that the city is under "intense" guerrilla attacks from all sides and the mujahidin now control "more than half of the airport."

According to sources cited by the agency, mujahidin forces have bypassed the airport and are heading for an area north of the city in a "change of strategy."

In another development, the Afghan Air Force pinpointed and attacked seven convoys carrying arms from the Pakistani border into Nangarhar and Konarha Provinces, Kabul radio reported. The convoys were set on fire and destroyed.

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, foreign minister in the mujahidin interim government, was injured 26 March when a bomb exploded in the Jalalabad region near a mosque where he was praying, Delhi radio reported. According to AFP, Hikmatyar was "slightly injured" by broken glass.

Earlier, Hikmatyar told the Saudi Arabian newspaper AL-YAWM that the mujahidin government has declared a "total amnesty" for President Najibullah and all those who cooperated with the Soviet Union against the mujahidin "if they surrender and discard their weapons."

Sudan

Members of the new government under Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi were sworn in 25 March, Omdurman radio reported. According to MENA, the new cabinet met for the first time 26 March and approved the peace initiative signed by the Democratic Unionist Party and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

A committee has been formed to contact the SPLM and to follow up the peace process in the south. Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn declared in an "exclusive statement" that Sudan "can establish peace in the south and meet 99.9 percent of the Armed Forces' requirements," MENA reported.

In another political development, Nasr al-Din al-Mahdi, deputy head of the Ummah Party, resigned his party post because he is "not convinced" that the new government is in accordance with what was agreed and because it is "based on personal favors," WAKH reported citing Doha's AL-'ARAB newspaper.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Appeals to Lebanese

JN2503185589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1718 GMT 25 Mar 89

["Appeal" to the Lebanese people by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister and chairman of the Arab League Committee on Lebanon, from Tunis on 25 March—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers in sisterly Lebanon, in my name and on behalf of their excellencies, the members of the Arab good offices ministerial committee charged with contacting the Lebanese, I address you. We were pained by the news reaching us on the deterioration of the security situation in sisterly Lebanon. The blood being shed is dear to us and to your Arab nation; the destruction inflicted on your beautiful country grieves us. While sending this appeal, we are confident that the voice of reason will rise above these futile political and military disputes.

The Arab committee will resume work tomorrow to listen to and exchange opinions with some Lebanese political figures—with experience in Lebanese affairs—in order to rescue this country from its present tragedy and help it overcome its crisis. Brethren, we are undertaking this mission, assigned to us by your brothers the Arab officials, for your sake and the sake of your future and security. We are morally, historically, and nationally committed to continue our efforts with impartiality and neutrality. Your contribution—the contribution of all factions of the Lebanese people—is essential. Without this contribution the committee will not be able to achieve greater progress, as you hope, nor accomplish its difficult mission, as we hope.

When we first accepted the assignment to tackle this Lebanese crisis, we knew that the road would be long and tough. We did not believe things would be easy and that security and stability would be achieved overnight. We said we had no magic wand to reach a quick solution. Therefore, we resume our work, stressing to you that the committee has realized your aspirations and feelings. It has also acquainted itself with all aspects of the crisis and it is in the process of containing and resolving it. I hope you will trust that your Arab nation's will is solid in its seriousness and full support for the committee in order to rescue Lebanon.

We sincerely appeal to you to shoulder your responsibilities toward your country, enjoy self-restraint and patience, end the bloody disputes, and turn to the spirit of dialogue and national reconciliation. We are for you and with you. Peace and blessings be upon you and may God guide you.

Arab League, Lebanese Leaders To Meet in Tunis

NC2603182589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The Arab six-member committee is preparing today in Tunis to meet with former Lebanese presidents, prime ministers, and parliamentary speakers starting tomorrow.

Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam arrived in Tunis this afternoon. Former President Amin al-Jumayyil may arrive tonight. Former President Sulayman Franjiyah will arrive in Tunis tomorrow from Damascus where he is scheduled to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Former speaker 'Adil 'Usayran, former prime ministers Shariq al-Wazzan, Rashid al-Sulh, and Amin al-Hafiz are scheduled to arrive tomorrow.

King Fahd Said Mediating Between Egypt, Syria

JN2503164089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the visit by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia to Cairo on Monday [27 March] will reflect positively on the restoration of relations between Egypt and Syria and that it will be decisive in this regard. This comes after behind-the-scenes contacts which Riyadh made during the past few days with Damascus.

Informed diplomatic sources in Damascus have told AL-ITTIHAD that the Saudi king will discuss with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this subject in light of the results of these contacts. They also said that a high-level Saudi envoy will leave for Damascus to brief President al-Asad on the Saudi king's talks with the Egyptian president.

The sources asserted that the restoration of relations between Egypt and Syria was also a main theme in the talks which Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held during his tour in the Arab Maghreb states, particularly with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. These meetings have given a strong push forward toward embodying and bolstering Arab solidarity during the next phase.

Palestinian Affairs

Spokesman Denies Allowing Talks With Israelis

JN2603200789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1920 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Brothers: In reply to a question by our radio on the London-based paper THE SUNDAY TIMES' report that was broadcast by Radio Israel this morning and that stated that the PLO has agreed in the recent session of talks with the U.S. side in Tunis to allow Palestinians from the occupied territories to begin negotiations with

the Israeli authorities, the PLO official spokesman told our radio a short while ago that this report is completely untrue and that this issue had absolutely not been discussed during the talks.

On this occasion, the PLO reiterates its known stand that the effective international conference under UN auspices with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent members and all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO on an equal footing with the other parties is the way for bringing about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Further on Denial

NC2603173089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman has denied a report by the UK newspaper THE SUNDAY TIMES that said the PLO had agreed in its recent talks with the United States to allow Palestinians from the occupied territories to begin negotiations with the Israeli occupation authorities.

In a statement today, 'Abd al-Rahman said that the report, cited this morning by Radio Israel, is completely untrue and that this issue had not been discussed during the talks.

The Palestinian spokesman said that the PLO confirms its known stand; namely, the way to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is to hold an effective international conference under UN auspices with the participation of the five permanent UN Security Council members along with that of all parties concerned with the conflict. The PLO should attend that conference on an equal footing with other participants, he added.

PLO To Discuss Forming Provisional Government

JN2503162389 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Sharjah, March 25 (GNA)—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Central Council will meet in Tunis during this week to discuss practical measures for establishing a provisional Palestinian government, UAE 'AL- KHALIJ' newspaper quoted reliable Palestinian sources as saying.

The sources told the Sharjah-based daily that the first step towards setting up the Palestinian government would be selection of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as the acting president of the Palestinian state and appointing Faruq Qaddumi chief of the PLO Political Department as acting foreign minister.

The 85-member PLO Central Council is a legislative body assigned by the recent Palestinian National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers to set up the provisional Palestinian government at an appropriate time.

Central Council To Meet 31 Mar

JN2503181689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has announced that the Palestine Central Council is to hold a meeting in Tunis next Friday [31 March]. Speaking to journalists in Amman today, he said the council will examine Palestinian developments and the Palestinian-American dialogue. The council will also discuss Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] contacts and talks with world leaders.

It will be recalled that the coming meeting will be the council's first since the latest PNC session in Algiers.

PLO Issues Statement on Tunis Meeting

JN2503172289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee—date, place not given]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a session of meetings in Tunis during 23-25 March 1989 and discussed a number of issues and subjects. The situation in the occupied territories and our people's valiant intifadah [uprising] were at the top of those subjects.

The PLO Executive Committee studied the Israeli policy, represented in the new crimes and increase of campaigns of oppression and terrorism practiced by the Israeli occupation authorities against our people's heroic masses; and the escalation of detentions, demolition of houses, and firing at masses of women, children, and old people. This affirms the fascist nature of this occupation and stirs the widest resentment and condemnation of these crimes.

The Palestinian leadership adopted a number of resolutions in order to activate the moves on the international arena, whether in the circles of world public opinion and its organizations or with the UN organizations, in order to expose these crimes and the need to stop them. It also adopted a number of resolutions and measures to escalate our people's confrontation of these Israeli crimes and bolster our people's blessed intifadah by all means.

The PLO Executive Committee also observed that this organized terrorism, practiced by the Israeli occupation forces, proceeds from the general policy that the Government of Israel still persists in by rejecting the Palestinian peace initiative. This initiative attracted the support of the widest sections of world public opinion and all international blocs and forces. Thus, with its policy and measures, the Government of Israel continues to challenge the international will.

This compels us to call on the international community and its organizations to take deterrent measures against the Government of Israel in order to force it to respond

to the will of the international community. This is the will of peace that is based on justice and that will enable our Palestinian people to gain their national rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination and establish their independent state on their national soil.

Regarding the pervasive international denunciation of Israel's policy, the PLO notes with pride the success of the pragmatic nationalist policy pursued by the Palestinian leadership and the gains it scores daily in the international arena in terms of growing support for the just Palestinian cause and the PLO and its leadership. This support is manifest in Palestinian and Arab masses rallying around the PLO and in support of the Islamic and African nations, as well as those of the Nonaligned Movemement, plus the socialist countries led by the friendly USSR and the PRC.

This backing also manifests itself in growing European and Japanese support for the PLO's wise policies. This worldwide shift in favor of the Palestinian cause has also affected American public opinion and brought about positive signals in the stands of the U.S. Administration, as well as in the Jewish circles around the world, particularly in Europe and the United States in addition to Israel itself.

This nationalist, wise, and courageous policy endorsed by the Palestine National Council [PNC] is underpinned by the unyielding, valiant struggle being waged by the masses of the great intifadah in our occupied land and the steadfastness of our masses in their southern Lebanon camps. This policy is thus rendered respectable and credible in the eyes of world public opinion and constitutes the militant guarantee for the Palestinian peace initiative.

The PLO Executive Committee has applauded with great pride the impressive steadfastness of our masses in the occupied land and their stubborn confrontation of the fierce onslaught of occupation armed with the relentless and invincible will of struggle and with the national unity and the total popular rallying around the PLO and its leadership.

The Executive Committee has also applauded the intifadah's accomplishments and those of the leadership on the international arena, which reflects complementarity between the militant and political movements inside and outside of the homeland and in the international arena. This is the source of the growing international support for the just cause of the Palestinian people. At the same time, it is a source of growing isolation and denunciation of the Israeli leadership and its anti-peace policies.

The PLO expressed its pride in the stance of our masses in the occupied land, rejecting the conspiracy of elections that the Israeli occupation authorities are seeking to impose on our people. Their aim in doing this is to abort the intifadah and split the ranks of our people. They are also attempting to outflank the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of our people by trying to create weak substitutes for it.

It is regrettable that, in recent statements, some Palestinian quarters have departed from traditional norms of the dialogue among comrades in the same trench. They have failed to see the great successes made by the sacrifices of our people and the wisdom of their political leaders. These quarters have also failed to discern the soundness of the political line endorsed by our PNC, whose effects are being felt on all fronts and have been supported by our friends worldwide.

Such statements can only serve to raise doubts as to whether their authors are concerned for the achievements made thus far and whether they want to realize more such gains. Are they intent on protecting the intifadah of our people, marshalling the energies of our people and their national factions, and enhancing their unity within the framework of the PLO and according to the historic decisions of the 19th session of the PNC, including the independence declaration and the political statement?

It is indeed strange that these quarters should use such a style of talking through statements when Palestinian democracy assures them ample room to present various issues for discussion within the framework of the PLO's legitimate institutions and judging them against the resolutions of the legitimate Palestinian bodies. As the Executive Committee expresses regret that such a method has been used, it calls on all sides not to get dragged into positions that only the enemies of our people and their cause and those lying in wait for their national unity benefit from. Such positions might hurt the reputation of the Palestinian struggle and run counter to the spirit of our great people.

The Executive Committee has also discussed the Palestinian-American dialogue and voiced appreciation for the seriousness that characterized it. The Executive Committee reiterates what the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue expressed about the need to achieve a comprehensive peace based on a total Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian and Arab land, Palestinian self-determination and repatriation and statehood, as well as an international Mideast peace conference attended by all the parties concerned, including the PLO, plus the five permament members of the UN Security Council.

The Executive Committee also stresses the need for going ahead with preparatory work for the international conference in a few months so as to ensure its success. The Executive Committee also stresses the need for a resolute stand against the Israeli terror directed against our people and their blessed intifadah and against our people in the camps of southern Lebanon.

Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs and revolution until victory.

PNC Speaker Comments on Talks With U.S.

JN2603095889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Mar 89 pp 18, 14

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has affirmed the importance of the Ismailia meeting held by His Majesty King Husayn, President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that this meeting is important because it comes on the eve of both His Majesty King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak of Egypt's departure for the United States to meet with U.S. President George Bush, and provides an opportunity for holding consultations, discussing the latest developments of the Palestine question, and reaching an understanding on the moves to be effected to advance the Middle East peace process and push forward the efforts to convene an international peace conference.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that invitations have been sent to the PLO Central Council members to attend the first meeting on Friday, 31 March.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that the conferees attending this meeting will conduct a detailed discussion of the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the escalation of the heroic intifadah [uprising] there with the aim of taking all measures to support it and maintain its continuation until its objectives are realized.

The PNC speaker added that the conferees will also be briefed on the meetings held by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, on his Arab and European tours, and also on the outcome of these tours and meetings with some Arab and European leaders.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that the conferees will also review the PNC resolutions recently adopted in Algiers so that the Palestinian moves will be effected within the framework of these resolutions and also within the framework of the concepts behind and meanings of these resolutions.

The PNC speaker added that the conferees will also discuss the U.S-Palestinian dialogue session in Tunis, the results of this dialogue, and the results envisaged in this dialogue so that the PLO Central Council members will be aware of what happened and what is going to happen.

In reply to a question on his opinion on the recent U.S.-Palestinian dialogue session, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: The mere contacts between us and the United States show a development in Washington's stand. However, we seek to see this dialogue develop further so that the dialogue level can be upgraded in a manner that would enable Yasir 'Arafat to meet with U.S. President George Bush.

U.S. 'Maneuvering' During Talks Examined

JN2603212089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] One wonders what the skeptics will say in the wake of the second round of the Palestinian-American dialogue. The second session of the Palestinian-American dialogue ended without the Palestinian leadership having to foot any bills, least of all to the adversaries of the Palestinians. One wonders what some shortsighted people have in store for us.

In any case, we are not here to call anybody to account. It is fair to say, however, that in the interval between the first round, which was one of mutual probing and the second round, which inevitably must have focused on specifics, the American side has bent over backwards to discourage the Palestinians from pursuing their options. In the meantime, the Palestinian side made every effort to win the Americans over to its options and constants. Such is the nature of every dialogue between any two adversaries.

No one has said or claimed that the dialogue with Washington will be a picnic that will necessarily culminate in the United States recognizing Palestinian national rights and constants. A dialogue between two adversaries is merely one aspect of their struggle, each attempting to bring the other around to his end. The stronger of the two will win out.

However, the difference between us and the skeptics is that we do not agree that the American side is the stronger in the dialogue. We maintain that we are the stronger party, since a political power in possession of accumulating gains is capable of getting the better of the Americans in the dialogue. In the interval between the first round and the second, the Americans used all their maneuvering skills to wrest concessions from the Palestinian side. They sought to use the services offered by some Arab capital by contriving confrontations with the Zionist enemy with the aim of embarrassing the Palestinian side and thus prove that its renunciation of terrorism lacks credibility.

Further, the Americans urged the Palestinian side to order a halt to the intifadah [uprising] in exchange for foolish promises by Israel. They have also sought to get the Palestinians to quit the Arab camp and enter into direct, separate negotiations with Israel. These attempts have taken the Americans approximately 3 months. As yet the Palestinian position remains impeccable. The second round of the Palestinian-American dialogue was immediately followed by a three-way summit grouping the principal players in the Middle East question—Palestine, Egypt, and Jordan, thus confirming isolation of the local opponents and the failure of the maneuver.

And now what do the fabricators and the shortsighted in the Palestinian and Arab arenas think? They may be tempted to say that it is a new Camp David accord and even draw parallels between a summit held in the past in Ismailia and the one held there recently. Perhaps they will find nothing to say. So, let us wait and see, as they may after all say something worth listening to or even talking about.

West Bank Leaders Suspend Talks With Israelis

JN2503175189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1724 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Palestinian leaders in the West Bank have decided to suspend their contacts with Israeli politicians until Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has returned from a visit to the United States early next month. According to Palestinian sources, this decision was publicized in an unsigned statement distributed in the occupied territories by Palestinian figures like Hanna Sinyurah and Faysal al-Husayni.

DFLP Condemns Attempts To Halt 'Uprising'

JN2603074089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] In a statement distributed in Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] condemned what it called Washington's attempts to terminate the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories. It added: When Washington demands transforming the intifadah into a political dialogue, it seeks to harm the intifadah which, according to the DFLP statement, is the source of the most important political and diplomatic gains achieved by the Palestinian people.

'Arafat Receives Message from Soviet Leadership

JN2403180389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Tunis, 24 Mar (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has received a message from the Soviet leadership which deals with the latest political developments in the region.

WAFA has reported that the Soviet ambassador in Tunis conveyed the message during his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat here today.

WAFA also reported that the PLO Executive Committee chairman also met today with the PRC ambassador in Tunis and asked him to convey a message to the PRC leadership that deals with developments in the Middle East.

Receives Soviet, PRC Envoys

LD2503191989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia, who handed him a message from the Soviet leadership on the latest political developments in the region. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar asked the Soviet ambassador to carry a reply message to the Soviet leadership.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also received the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Tunisia. Brother Abu 'Ammar asked the ambassador to convey a message to the PRC leadership on the latest political developmednts in the Middle East.

'Arafat Receives Invitation to Visit GDR

LD2503224589 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received an official invitation from GDR President Erich Honecker to visit the GDR. The invitation was delivered by the GDR ambassador to Tunisia, who reiterated his country's stand of support for the Palestine people's struggle under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

Brother Abu 'Ammar asked the ambassador to thank President Honecker for his stand of support and that of the GDR for the Palestine just struggle.

Syria-Mosad Plan To Kill Palestinians Revealed

JN2403204889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Tunis, 24 Mar (INA)—Reliable Palestinian sources have revealed the existence of a joint plan between the Syrian regime's intelligence organ and the Zionist intelligence, the Mosad, to assassinate a number of PLO officials in a number of European states.

These sources asserted to the INA correspondent in Tunis that they received confirmed reports and warnings from French and Italian security organs on the arrival of assassination teams comprising 15 persons that left Syria and Lebanon for a number of West and East European states.

These sources added that the countries in which these operations are expected to be carried out are Greece, Cyprus, Belgium, Bonn, Paris, Romania, Yugoslavia, Geneva, and Rome.

The sources explained that the Italian and French police commands have issued urgent internal memos in which they emphasized that there will be an increase in vigilance and caution and double security on PLO offices in Rome and Paris.

The Palestinian sources asserted that the interests of the Syrian regime's intelligence and the Zionist Mosad converge when it comes to carrying out assassinations against leading Palestinian cadres, particularly at the current time, especially after the political victories achieved recently by the Palestinian revolution.

Egypt

'Arafat, King Husayn Arrive for Tripartite Talks

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives

NC2503062589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here this morning on a visit to Egypt. 'Arafat will take part in the tripartite meeting which will be held later today in Ismailia with President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jorfdan.

'Arafat was met at the airport by Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo and PLO charge d'affaires in Egypt; Sa'id Kamal, PLO Cairo bureau chief; and Ambassador Ahmad Thabit, chief of protocol at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

King Husayn Arrives

NC2503103189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Fa'id, 25 Mar (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived here at 1120 today to attend the tripartite summit with President Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. His majesty was received at Fa'id Air Base by President Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat. He was also received by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Safwat al-Sharif, information minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs; Ismailia Governor 'Abd al-Mun'im 'Imarah; Dr Mamdush al-Biltaji, chairman of the Public Information Authority; Lieutenant General 'Ala' al-Din Barakat, Air Force commander; Gen Ahmad Wahdan, commander of the 2d Field Army; and Brig Gen Ahmad al-Fiqi, commander of Fa'id Air Base.

Upon his arrival, King Husayn was embraced by President Mubarak and Palestinian leader 'Arafat. The leaders were then driven by President Mubarak personally to the Deversoir area, where they boarded a launch for a cruise in the Suez Canal where they began their political discussion.

Talks Take Place in Ismailia

NC2503120389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Ismailia, 25 mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak, His Majesty King Husayn, and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat have arrived at the Suez Canal Authority's building aboard the yacht "Al-Aqsa." The three leaders arrived at the building following a 1-hour session of talks during a cruise from the Deversoir area to the authority building in Ismailia. The ships docked at the harbor blew their whistles to salute the three leaders.

Upon their arrival at the Suez Canal Authority building, the three leaders held a round of talks. They are scheduled to resume their discussion over a working lunch at the authority building. They are also scheduled to hold a news conference this evening at the Seuz Canal Authority's building in Ismailia.

'Expanded Session' Begins

NC2503130389 Cairo MENA in English 1235 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Ismailia, March 25 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held an expanded session of talks this afternoon.

Talks were attended on the Egyptian side by Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence and Military Production Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif and First Foreign Undersecretary and Chairman of the President's Office for Political Affairs Dr. Usamah al-Baz.

Present at the talks from the Jordanian side were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, Political Advisor to the King Adnan Abu 'Awdah and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

The Palestinian delegation included PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, Official Spokesman and Head of the Information Department Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, member of the Higher Committee on Homeland Affairs Mamduh Nawfal, who doubles as 'Arafat's advisor on the occupied lands affairs.

Al-Sharif Comments on Talks

NC2503141389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Ismailia, 25 Mar (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that the tripartite summit between Husni Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat comes at an important and critical stage that requires consultations on the means of giving an impetus to the peace process—particularly as the international community is on the verge of preparing for the international peace conference—and on supporting the PLO-led Palestinian action and initiatives. He added that the talks also involved a briefing on the results of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

In a statement to MENA, Al-Sharif said that the three leaders agreed in their talks in Ismailia today that this meeting is a step on the road to the united Arab stand to

achieve the just and comprehensive peace based on the Palestinian people's retrieval of their legitimate rights and the full [Israeli] withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He said that the leaders also agreed on the importance of consultations at this level to coordinate the stands prior to President Mubarak's visit to the United States, to clarify the concept of Arab action in the current and coming stages within the framework of the major principles and proposed formulas for holding the international conference, and to exchange views on what preparatory measures can be taken to hold the international peace conference.

The information minister added that frankness, a spirit of brotherhood, and eagerness for consultations at this stage prevailed at the three leaders' talks. [passage omitted]

King Husayn on ACC Stand

NC2503151489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1457 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Ismailia, 25 Mar (MENA)—Jordan's King Husayn has declared that the member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]—Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the YAR—have decided that they will attend any Arab summit, whether ordinary or extraordinary, that may be held, together.

His majesty was asked: Is the opposite true; that is, if one of the four countries is not invited will the other three not attend? King Husayn replied: Yes, the opposite is true.

This came in a news conference which the three leaders President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn, and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat held today in Ismailia.

Summit News Conference

NC2503155689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Ismailia, 25 Mar [MENA]—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stressed that there are presently positive signs in the international arena relating to a solution to the Middle East problem. He noted that there are positive indications in the U.S. and European stands and expressed hope that Israel would respond to these.

This came in a news conference held here today by the three leaders President Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

President Mubarak reiterated that the principal aim of the talks he is holding is to bring about an international peace conference. He added that any new ideas could be proposed during the international conference negotiations. The president noted that his talks with Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, during the latter's visit to Egypt which starts on Monday, will deal with the Palestinian issue, the Iraq-Iran peace talks that have come to a halt, bilateral relations, and the issue of [Egypt's return to] the Arab League. He also stressed that he will discuss the issue of peace in the region with King Fahd. He said that peace is not an impossible aim but a noble one. He expressed hope that Israel will respond to this noble aim.

Jordan's King Husayn stressed at the news conference that Jordan supports and backs the PLO with all its resources. He said that Jordan will continue to work with the PLO to achieve the hope and aim of retrieving the Palestinian people's rights. He added that the entire world is moving toward resolving all issues that threaten peace either at the regional or international level.

Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat declared that there was agreement in the past to hold an ordinary Arab summit in Riyadh, or to hold an extraordinary summit as the need arises. He said: We are trying to hold this extraordinary summit as soon as possible in order to work out a complete Arab plan. He added that if this summit is held it will discuss a basic issue—namely, Egypt's return to its natural position in the Arab nation.

At the start of the three leaders' news conference, President Mubarak delivered a speech in which he said: I seize this opportunity to welcome my brother His Majesty King Husayn and my brother PLO Chairman Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to Egypt's land in Ismailia. As usual, I do not want to talk too much about welcoming them because they are in their own country, not a foreign one. I would like to say today that we have become used to exchanging views in order to reach a just solution to the Palestinian issue and to support and back this issue under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

President Mubarak continued: We held a lengthy session during which we exchanged views. We summed up all the previous issues and discussed the coming steps, particularly my visit to the United States. My brother His Majesty King Husayn will also visit the United States in May. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is going to the United States after my visit—that is, after Mubarak's visit—and before that of King Husayn.

President Mubarak added: In fact, I take this opportunity to say that there are positive signs in the international arena from the United States and European countries. We hope that Israel will respond to these positive signs so that we may reach a comprehensive and full solution and so that the entire region may live in peace and accord. The aim of all of us is to reach a just solution to the problem in order to have peace. My thanks to my brother His Majesty King Husayn and to my brother Abu 'Ammar, until we meet again.

Answering a question on whether new ideas on peace have crystallized during today's talks, President Mubarak said: We are not looking for new ideas. Our aim is clear. He was asked whether there is full recognition of the principle of "land for peace,"—what the PLO agreed to when it recognized Resolutions 242 and 338. He said

that the whole world, and the United States, has recognized this. He added: We want to bring about an international peace conference.

President Mubarak continued: When an international peace conference is held, our main concern will be to define the final resolution of the problem. This could be done after one or two stages. What new ideas could be more important than an international peace conference? We will put all the cards on the negotiating table at the international peace conference.

Yasir 'Arafat then answered a question on the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, its progress, and the possibility of proceeding to a new stage in Washington in light of the fact that the dialogue has now touched on the essential issues. Abu 'Ammar said: I am satisfied that this dialogue is being held in Tunis. Why do you want to transfer it to Washington? I am particularly satisfied that it is being held in Tunis. The level of dialogue is good. The recent meeting in Tunis was positive and serious. He expressed hope that it would have a fruitful outcome with regard to the peace process and the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national and political rights, including their right to return, to determine their own future, and to set up their independent state. He added that the Palestine National Council has approved all this as well as the establishment of the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship, which he described as a special one between two peoples, and as a confederation established through the two countries' choice.

Asked whether a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has been reached on the issue of Palestinian representation to be submitted to the U.S. Administration, King Husayn said: First, I have come here to congratulate President Husni Mubarak warmly on behalf of the Jordanian people on the return of Arab Egyptian Tabah to Egypt in full. I extend my thanks and gratitude for the warm welcome accorded me by the president and for giving us—my brother Abu 'Ammar and me—this opportunity to meet here on the dear and beloved soil of Egypt. I sum up the situation as follows: We support and back the PLO—the sole legitimate representatiave of the Palestinian people—and the Palestinian stand, which took shape first in Algiers and then before the entire world at the United Nations, with all our resources.

King Husayn continued: We will continue to work together to achieve our goals and aspirations, to restore the Palestinian Arab people's right on their national soil, and to attain an honorable, just, and permanent peace for all our future generations. As a matter of fact, our stand is the same. We will continue our consultations together and each of us will strive toward our goals to reach the required results. God willing, I am optimistic that we will inevitably reach our goals.

Yasir 'Arafat said: I would like to explain that there is nothing new. Praise be to God, this blessed meeting in Egypt was preceded by another meeting in His Majesty King Husayn's palace in Al-'Aqabah, which indicates that our views are basically in agreement. He continued: There is nothing new in this meeting, except to emphasize what we have already agreed upon regarding establising a just and comprehensive peace in the region and assisting the Palestinian people in fully regaining their rights.

Asked about reports that he will meet with French President Mitterrand in Cairo in April, 'Arafat said: I think that His Excellency President Mubarak can answer this question. Mubarak said: In fact, I heard this report from news agencies, and today I hear it from you. I cannot say anything about this unless I receive confirmed reports about which I can talk. If we receive confirmed reports that I am not supposed to tell newsmen, I do not disclose them. If there is going to be a meeting, it will be announced at the proper time. Yasir 'Arafat was asked if the leaders had discussed the need to hold an immediate or emergency Arab summit. He answered by saying that the need to hold a regular summit was stressed in the past. Certain arrangements should be made to hold a regular summit in Saudi Arabia, or an emergency Arab summit, as the need arises. He added: We are trying to hold an extraordinary Arab summit as soon as possible in order to draw up a unified plan of action to support the peace moves and consolidate Arab and Palestinian peace initiatives in this regard.

'Arafat said: We have to give a clear signal here that if the Arab summit is held it will have to address another important issue; namely, the return of Egypt to assume its natural role in the Arab world. This is an issue in which we take pride. Egypt has already been restored to its place in the Islamic world.

'Arafat stated: We will also have to discuss the Lebanese situation. The six-member committee will meet tomorrow in Tunis under the chairmanship of Kuwait to discuss the Lebanese situation. Conditions are worsening in Lebanon and we are following with concern what is happening there to that brotherly people.

King Husayn was asked to give his views on the return of Tabah to Egyptian sovereignty, to say whether this has established that peaceful negotiations are the appropriate road for a settlement, and to comment on Israel's fear of holding an international peace conference. The king was also asked to express his views on the future.

King Husayn said: The world as a whole is moving in the direction of resolving all the issues which threaten peace and security on the regional and international levels. Much has been achieved in this regard. In my opinion, the world will not remain shackled by the obstinacy of a few people who are trying to stop this irreversible tide. We will have to tackle this issue in this sensitive and vital part of the world with due attention and speed.

Answering a question by the correspondent of the U.S. CNN television network on Jordanian policy and Middle East developments, the Jordanian monarch declared: Our policies are well known. I discussed this matter

today with President Mubarak, who will soon visit the United States. We hope that there will be progress toward resolving the Middle East problem, especially now that the PLO has delineated its intentions with regard to peace in the entire world.

Asked about the possibility of direct talks between the PLO and Israel before an international conference for peace is convened, 'Arafat said: As we have declared more than once, we welcome any negotiations to reach a just solution and a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue and the Middle East crisis. He added: This, however, must take place through an international peace conference, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO, as King Husayn said a short while ago.

Asked about the visit to Egypt by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, beginning the day after tomorrow, Monday, and about the most important issues that will be discussed during this visit, President Mubarak said: When I meet with an Arab leader like His Majesty King Fahd, I broach Arab issues, both generally and specifically. The primary issue that concerns the Arab world is the Palestinian issue. We then move on to discuss the talks that have come to a halt between Iran and Iraq over the war. We hope that these talks will finally attain good results. We also discuss bilateral ties and our relations with the Arab League. I discuss all these issues with an Arab leader such as King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques. We will also discuss peace.

President Mubarak reasserted that peace is not an impossible goal, but a noble aim. He added: I do not believe that any country in the region or anywhere else realizes that peace is a noble goal and refuses to seek it. He expressed hope that Israel will respond to this noble goal, because it will put an end to bloodshed, vituperations, and the waste of money in ways that do not serve the people.

At the end of the news conference, the three leaders shook hands with the boards of directors and chief editors of the Egyptian papers.

During a conversation with the chief editors, King Husayn was asked about the stand of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] on Arab summits and Egypt's participation. He said: In Jordan, our stand is to call for an Arab summit, be it ordinary or extraordinary. When Arab summits convene, they deal with many issues worth discussing. He added: I want to note here that the ACC's stand is that the member countries will attend any Arab summit together. Afterward, God willing, our Arab nation will proceed toward its goals. We have decided that we, the four leaders, will attend a summit together.

Five-Point Plan Formulated

JN2703081589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Mar (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Jordanian monarch King Husayn, and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat have agreed, during their recent tripartite summit in Ismailia, on a five-point plan to resolve the Palestine question. Citing informed sources in Cairo, AL-ITTIHAD says that the plan calls for convening an international conference with the necessary powers to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council. The plan calls on Washington to play a direct role in convincing the enemy government to embark on preparatory procedures to convene the international conference through the proposed preparatory committee.

The plan provides that the UN resolutions should be the basis of the peaceful settlement in the Middle East, taking into consideration the national and legitimate right of the Palestinian people. This right is derived from the international laws that call for this. The plan also calls on Israel to immediately stop the repressive measures against the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territory. According to the plan, the occupied territory should be placed under UN supervision until a final settlement of the Palestinian problem is achieved.

King Husayn Departs

NC2503162789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Fa'id, Ismailia, 25 Mar (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan left Fa'id Air Base this afternoon on his way back to Amman after taking part in the tripartite summit meeting with President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. President Mubarak saw King Husayn off. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Departs for Tunis

NC2703062489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for Tunis this morning following a 2-day visit to Egypt, during which he participated in the tripartite summit held in Ismailia on Saturday.

'Arafat was seen off at the airport by Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, as well as the staff members of the PLO office in Cairo.

Sudan

State Council Approves New Government 25 Mar

EA2503184289 Khartoum SUNA in French 1519 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Mar (SUNA)—The State Council approved during a meeting on Saturday the new government of the National Unity Front under the leadership of Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi (Ummah Party) consisting of 23 ministers:

1. General Mubarak 'Uthman Rahmah, retired: defense minister.

2. Mr Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn (Democratic Unionist Party [DUP]) [former interior minister]: foreign minister.

3. Mr Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil al-Mahdi (Ummah Party) [interior minister in last government]: interior minister.

4. Mr Salah al-Din 'Abd al-Salam al-Khalifah [minister of presidency affairs in last government] (Ummah Party): minister of cabinet affairs.

5. Mr 'Uthman 'Umar al-Sharif (DUP): justice minister and attorney general.

6. Dr 'Umar Muhammad Nur al-Da'im [minister of finance and economic planning in May 1988] (Nationalist Unionist Party): minister of finance and economic planning.

7. Dr Bashir 'Umar Fadlallah [minister of culture in last government] (NUP): minister of energy and mines.

8. Mr Ibrahim Radwan [agriculture minister in April 1985] (DUP): minister of industry.

9. Mr Mahmud Bashir Jamma' [minister of irrigation and hydraulic resources in May 1985] (NUP): minister of irrigation and water resources.

10. Mr Mirghani 'Abd al-Rahman Sulayman (DUP): minister of trade and supply.

11. Dr al-Shaykh Mahjub Jafar [education minister in May 1985] (NUP): education minister. 12. Dr 'Abd al-Rahman Abu al-Kull (Modern Forces): health minister.

13. Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih [replaced as foreign minister by Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi in February 1989] (Modern Forces): culture and information minister.

14. Dr Isma'il Abkar (NUP): minister of public works and environment.

15. Mr Abu Zayd Muhammad Salih (Sudanese Communist Party): minister of public service and administrative reform.

16. Mr 'Ukasha Ba Bakr (leftist): minister of labor and social security.

17. Dr Uhaj Muhammad Musa [replaced as health minister by Mamun Yusuf in February 1989] (DUP): minister of relief.

The ministers of transport, agriculture, local government, animal wealth, sports and youth, and tourism will be named later. The new cabinet will be sworn in on Saturday evening at the presidential palace in the presence of the president and members of the Supreme State Council.

More Portfolios Filled

EA2603174989 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1245 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The head of state's Council issued a decree at its meeting yesterday morning at the Republican Palace chaired by Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Council, accepting the formation of the government as follows: [passage omitted]

Mr Aldo Ajo Deng: minister of agriculture

Mr Joseph Ukel: minister of local government

Mr Paolino Zizi: minister of animal health

Mr Robert Bendi: minister of youth and sports

Mr Muhammad Hamad Kuwah: minister for tourism and hotels

Mr Jabrallah Khamsin Khadari: leader of the Constituent Assembly. [passage omitted]

The new government held its first meeting at 1000 this Sunday morning. It was chaired by Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister.

In a separate development, the southern parties represented in the Constituent Assembly which signed the broad-based government program have elected Mr Angelor Beda as president of the Southern Council and Mr David Bol as his deputy. [passage omitted]

Ummah Party Leaders Meet, Issue Statement

EA2403130689 Omduraman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, president of the Ummah Party, has issued the following statement: The leadership council and the members of the party presidency have held a meeting on the formation of the new government at which they decided they should devote themselves to party business. It was decided that Nasr al-Din al-Hadi

will maintain his position as vice president of the party, and Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im takes the position of acting secretary-general, and Al-Sayyid Fathi Adil as acting deputy secretary-general.

The other members of the party general secretariat will remain as party executives and will work with other Ummah Party members. This is in accordance with the recent decisions taken by the party Politburo office.

The statement clarifies that Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im will continue to hold the portfolio of minister of finance and economic planning in the new government temporarily to supervise the 1989-1990 general budget. He will be released from party duties.

Al-Mahdi Relieves Regional Governors of Duties

EA2603195989 Khartoum SUNA in French 1524 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Excerpts] In a communique issued on Sunday [26 March], Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi relieved of their duties the regional governors and ministers. The decree concerns the governors and ministers of Central, Kurdufan, Darfur, Eastern, Northern and Southern regions, it was learned. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi also named 'Abd al-Rahman 'Abdullah as head of the Supreme Council of Religious affairs.

New Government Meets, Accepts Peace Initiative

EA2503173889 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The government of the United National Front held its first meeting this morning, chaired by the prime minister, Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi, at the Council's General Secretariat. Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, minister of culture and information and the official spokesman of the government, said the Council discussed today a number of important issues to be achieved during the coming period, the foremost being the need to speed up the peace process. This is in addition to economic recovery, a review of the development programs, and migrant relief policies.

Participants in the meeting also discussed the country's foreign policy. In this connection, the official spokesman said the Council of Ministers has issued a number of resolutions, among which is the approval of the forthcoming step-by-step program and the acceptance of the peace initiative included in the program.

A ministerial committee chaired by Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn has been entrusted to function as an operations room. Another committee has also been formed to study the general election laws under the chairmanship of Health Minister Dr 'Abd al-Rahman Abu al-Kull. A third committee is to be set up by the culture and information minister to mobilise the public in support of the Armed Forces.

The Council also issued a resolution to appoint the foreign minister, Mr Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn as first deputy prime minister and the minister of agriculture, Mr Aldo Ajo Deng, as second deputy prime minister. More details will follow.

[Khartoum SUNA in Arabic at 1430 GMT transmitted the above report verbatim with the following addition between the first and second sentences of graf three: "This operational room is to take the necessary measures to contact the Sudan People's Libration Movement SPLM to implement the peace initiative. The committee includes in its membership: ministers of regional coordination, energy and mines, tourism and hotels, public service and administrative reform in addition to: General Yusuf Ahmad Yusuf, retired, of the Democratic Unionist Party, Prof Hammad Umar Baqadi of the Ummah Party and Dr Taysir Muhammad Ahmad, a professor in the political studies department of the University of Khartoum. Following the meeting of the committee, Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad al-Husayn said in a press statement the committee will tomorrow hold a meeting of all its members to agree on the plan of work and to fix the date for contacting the SPLA so as to implement the peace initiative."]

Foreign Minister Describes Government Policy

NC2603144789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1302 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Mar (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn has said that the broad-based Sudanese government whose formation was announced yesterday will seek to implement its transitional program for establishing peace ina the country's south, strengthening the Armed Forces, achieving the maximum possible openness, and pursuing a balanced policy with all the brothers, neighbors, and rest of the world to extricate the country from its passing crisis.

The Sudanese minsiter said in an exclusive statement to the MENA correspondent in Khartoum: We can establish peace in the south and meet 99.9 percent of the Armed Forces' requirements.

Al-Husayn said that any decision which was made with less than the full consensus of the previous government will be reconsidered to ensure the full backing of the entire new Sudanese Government.

South To Receive UN Food Aid by Mid-May

EA2503205689 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT Mar 89

[Text] The United Nations has decided to embark on the greatest relief operation in the Third World to transport aid to southern Sudan. The secretary-general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, has appointed Mr James Grant special representative to supervise these operations in the south.

The UN envoy said the Sudanese Government had declared a cease-fire, while Garang's movement had accepted an armistice during April. Some reports say Garang's movement has imposed a condition that aircraft should fly along specified corridors, that venues be specified, and that the Movement be given priority to transport relief inside the war zones. The Movement had refused to declare a cease-fire.

The amount of relief aid the UN is intending to send totals 120,000 tonnes, which is scheduled to be transported before mid-May. The UN secretary-general has appealed to the international community to supply the aircraft and trucks needed to transport the relief. Reports also suggest that Mr Grant will conduct intensive contacts to raise the funds needed to transport the aid.

Tunisia

'Arafat Briefs Ben Ali on U.S.-PLO Dialogue

LD2403142189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received at the Republic Palace in Carthage this morning Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. Hakam Bal'awi, the representative of the organisation to Tunisia, also attended.

Yasir 'Arafat expressed his pleasure with meeting the president at a time when the Palestinian leadership is meeting on Tunisian soil. He added that he informed the head of state on the developments taking place in the Palestinian arena and the talks of the Palestinian leadership during the last 2 days of the blessed intifadah [uprising] of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories, as well as the importance of escalating this intifadah in order to face the dangerous decision adopted by Shamir in his attempt to affect the intifadah before his scheduled visit to the United States. 'Arafat said: However, I tell him and tell the Israeli leadership that this intifadah will—God willing—continue until the end of Israeli occupation of our holy land.

Yasir 'Arafat mentioned that he informed President Ben Ali about the contents of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue that recently took place on Tunisian soil and about the plans of the Palestinian leadership to follow up this dialogue, which he described as positive and serious and which he hopes will have fruitful results.

Yasir 'Arafat pointed out that the talks also covered the scenario of the war going on in south Lebanon, of which signs appeared through the military concentrations in south Lebanon against the Palestinian camps and the Lebanese villages and towns. He also said that he thanked his excellency the president for the fraternal, permanent, and continuous stance of the Tunisian president, government, and people in supporting the Palestinian cause, the sacred cause of the Arabs and the Muslims, and we will—God willing—pray together in Jerusalem.

Stresses Escalating 'Uprising'

LD2503200989 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met in Tunis yesterday morning with his brother the Tunisian president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the presidential palace in Carthage. Following the meeting, brother Abu Ammar stated the following:

I had the pleasure of meeting with His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at a time when the Palestinian leadership is meeting on Tunisian territory. He added that he acquainted the Tunisian president with the current developments in the Palestinian arena and the discussions held by the Palestinian leadership during the past 2 days on the question of the blessed uprising of our Palestinian people inside the occupied territory, and the importance of escalating the uprising in the face of the fierce violence Shamir has decided to use in an attempt to influence the uprising before his visit to the United States.

Abu 'Ammar added: In this regard, I say to him and to the Israeli leadership that the uprising, God willing, will, continue until the end of the Israeli occupation of our holy land.

Abu 'Ammar also said that he acquainted the Tunisian president with the progress of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which took place recently under his patronage in Tunisia, and with the Palestinian leadership's views on the continuation of this dialogue, which he described as serious and positive and which he hopes will have fruitful results.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also pointed out that the talks covered the Israeli war plan in southern Lebanon as indicated by the military concentrations on the borders in southern Lebanon against the Palestinian camps and the Lebanese towns and villages.

Kuwait

'Authoritative Source' Denies Yacht Hijacking

LD2703090389 Kuwait KUNA in English 0801 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Kuwait, March 27 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti authoritative source denied late last night reports on hijacking of a yacht last Thursday [23 March] while en route from Bahrain to Kuwait. The source also strongly denied what some Western news agencies had alleged that several members of Al-Sabah ruling family were on board the vessel. [passage omitted]

A Kuwaiti daily had reported yesterday that Iranian Navy had seized a yacht carrying four Britons, five members of a ruling Arab Gulf family, a Gulf citizen of a well-known family and a son of an Arab prominent figure. It said the 25-meter yacht, owned by a wealthy Arab man, was hijacked while sailing from Bahrain to Kuwait and was likely to have been taken to the Iranian island of Farsi.

Bahraini Source Denies Report

JN2603212989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2110 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Manama, 26 Mar (WAKH)—Official sources in Bahrain and Kuwait have denied the reported hijacking or disappearance of a yacht carrying Gulf nationals and foreigners. The sources stressed that official authorities have no statement to make on the disappearance of any vessel or yacht at sea.

Vessel Issued 'Distress Call'

NC2703055689 Paris AFP in English 0529 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Kuwait, March 27 (AFP)—A Kuwaiti official late Sunday denied reports that the Iranian Navy had seized a yacht last Thursday [23 March] as it travelled from Bahrain to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

A Bahraini Coast Guard spokesman said the yacht, which was not named, issued a distress call Thursday, the day when AL-ANBA' said it was seized. The paper said the 25-meter (82-foot) white and blue craft had begun its journey in a French port and was likely to have been taken to the Iranian island of Farsi in the northern Gulf.

But with no official confirmation from Kuwait, Britain or Iran, the Manama-based GULF NEWS AGENCY cited official sources in Bahrain as denying that a boat carrying Gulf Arabs and foreigners had disappeared or been seized.

Paper Says Lebanon's 'Awn 'Represents Reality'

JN2503160389 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 23-24 Mar 89 p 6

[Editorial by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Lebanon Should Be Left Alone"]

[Text] The political implications accredited to Gen. Michel 'Awn, head of the Lebanese transitional government, are undoubtedly new and vital to the Lebanese people, who have been witnessing a civil war for the last 15 years.

At this stage, Lebanon sorely needs a Lebanese national to run its affairs and make decisions that are unilaterally Lebanese. Thus, we can say that 'Awn represents reality—which is the Lebanese popular feelings.

Saying what 'Awn has said was not permitted before. Lebanon needed an adventurer of this type to publicly state what the Lebanese people want. 'Awn's stand is also characterised by courage in expressing in public what the Lebanese say and want in secret. They want Lebanon left free to make its own decisions, without any external interference.

Publicly stating ideas such as those of 'Awn will certainly make the issues complicated for those foreigners meddling in Lebanese affairs. Non-Lebanese presence will also become costly. Non-Lebanese factions present in Lebanon are surely aware of this precipice which lies before them. They are currently in face-to-face confrontation with both the Lebanese population and its political forces.

Undoubtedly, while some of these political forces are at present opposing 'Awn in public in reality they are with him and will in the near future work in the direction of 'Awn's concepts.

The civil war has taught the Lebanese people many lessons. By understanding these lessons, they can carefully work to settle their social conditions without any foreign interference.

The various Lebanese factions alone are capable of solving their problems between themselves after 15 years of civil war, during which these factions invited aid from their neighbours and paid a very expensive price.

Many wise Arabs have for long years been suggesting a path towards the very objectives expounded now by 'Awn, which is: Lebanon must be left to its people to solve their own problems without foreign intervention.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Leaves on Official Visit to Iraq

LD2503110389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1008 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 25 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, left Riyadh at noon today on his way to the Iraqi Republic to begin an official visit. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd

Makes Arrival Statement

JN2503191589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on an official visit to Iraq. King Fahd was accorded an official welcome led by President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

In a statement made to an INA correspondent upon his arrival at the Saddam International Airport, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, voiced his admiration and appreciation for His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and for the Iraqi Government and people. He affirmed that the historic and strong relations between Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have become, God be praised and thanks to the leaderships of the two countries, an element of harmony, solidarity, and cooperation. The following is the text of the statement made by the custodian of the two holy mosques:

It pleases me at this moment while I and the accompanying delegation arrive at my second home, the fraternal Republic of Iraq, to salute with all pride and admiration my brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of the Republic of Iraq and to also greet the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi Arab people for the hospitality and good reception accorded to us in the land of Mesopotamia.

It goes without saying that the strong and historic ties binding the two fraternal peoples and governments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Iraq have become, God be praised and thanks to Islamic doctrine, solidarity, and constructive cooperation, an element of harmony, solidarity, and cooperation, which is meant by all of us to serve the common interests of the entire Arab and Islamic nations, and not only those of our two countries and peoples.

I am certain that the phase through which our Arab nation is currently passing requires first and foremost that we work to realize an effective and genuine Arab solidarity and that we reach the peaks of the constructive Arab action; as this would, God willing, help us realize the aspirations of our Arab nation pertaining to the attainment of solidarity, the closure of ranks, and the unification of stands which are prerequisites for confronting the challenges imposed on us.

We look forward to seeing our talks with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi Government officials serve as a mainstay of support for the Islamic and Arab causes, foremost among which are the Palestine question, the Afghan cause, and the Lebanese tragedy in particular, and all forms of suffering afflicting our Arab and Islamic peoples in general.

These issues which have been accorded great attention by the leaders of the Arab and Islamic nations have recently witnessed significant changes indicating we are proceeding on the right path conducive to the attainment of objectives and the realization of aspirations.

The government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who stood alongside Iraq in its desire for the realization of a just and comprehensive peace salute this orientation so Iraq can play its effective role in building the edifice of the Islamic and Arab civilization. With a comprehensive peace, Iraq can continue its development and reconstruction programs which seek the welfare of the Iraqi citizen so this citizen may utilize his potentialities, capabilities, and abilities to serve the Arab nation and its objectives.

Concluding my statement, I would like to salute fraternal Iraq—president, government, and people—wishing it continued sublimity and further development, prosperity, and progress. [passage omitted]

The delegation accompanying the custodian of the two holy mosques comprises His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; and 'Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information.

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN2603165489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn and his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, held a meeting at the great guest's place of residence today to discuss the brotherly relations between the two countries and ways to promote them in particular as well as the Arab and international situation in general to bolster the positive role of the Arab nation and the Islamic world.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi minister of foreign affairs.

President Saddam Husayn also gave King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, a sniper rifle manufactured by the Iraqi military industrialization and another gold-plated automatic gun made of the weapons of the glorious Saddam Al-Qadisiyah martyrs donated by the glorious Iraqi women.

The president gave a luncheon banquet to honor his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques and his delegation. Taha Yasin Ramadan attended the banquet.

'Aziz Confers With Saudi Foreign Minister

JN2603175489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1714 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi minister of foreign affairs, here today to discuss the close and brotherly relations between Iraq and Saudi Arabia and ways to promote them in all areas to serve the interests of the two fraternal countries and peoples and support their role in unified Arab action.

They also discussed the current negotiations between Iraq and Iran to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 under the auspices of the UN secretary general. They stressed the need to continue these negotiations in a serious and effective manner to reach a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran and in the entire Arabian Gulf region.

During the meeting they also touched on the latest developments in the Middle East and in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas as well as issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Isma'il al-Shura, Saudi Foreign Ministry under secretary; Nuri al-Wayyis and Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretaries; and the Iraqi ambassador in Riyadh.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets USSR's Polyakov 25 Mar

JN2503205789 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, they reviewed the results of the visit made to Baghdad last month by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and discussed the ties of friendship and fruitful cooperation between the two friendly countries. They also reviewed the progress of the ongoing negotiations to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 with the aim of realizing a comprehensive, just, and durable peace between Iraq and Iran and in the Arabian Gulf region. They also discussed the developments in the Middle East region and issues of common interest.

During the meeting, Tariq 'Aziz affirmed Iraq's firm stand with regard to the establishment of a comprehensive and durable peace between the two countries and in the region on the basis of clear foundations that fall in harmony with the UN Charter, the rules of international law, and the provisions contained in the Resolution No 598. He also asserted Iraq's keenness to see the direct negotiations continue seriously in a manner that would realize [words indistinct].

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the chief of the International Organizations and Conferences Department at the ministry, the chief of the First International Department at the ministry, and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Polyakov Leaves 26 Mar

JN2603101889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad last night following a visit of several days to Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, had met Vladimir Polyakov in the presence of a number of Foreign Ministry officials. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Confers With Abraham Sofaer in Baghdad

JN2703101889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning receieved Abraham Sofaer, legal adviser at the U.S. State Department, who is on a visit to Iraq. During the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun and the American ambassador in Baghdad, talks focused on bilateral relations and ways to develop them.

Shamir: Both Sides Must Make 'Concessions'

TA2603202289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yig'al Goren on 26 March in Jerusalem—videorecorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Goren] Mr Prime Minister, when Begin signed the Camp David accords, he made a tremendous concession: he gave up all of the Sinai and all the settlements there. Do you realize that if you wish to reach another peace agreement, you too, and Israel, will have to make some sort of concession?

[Shamir] I am convinced that, when working on any peace agreement, both sides have to overcome various factors and to make concessions. I stress: both sides.

[Goren] Do you thereby refer to your recent remarks to the effect that you plan to say things in the United States that no one has heard you say before? Is this the direction?

[Shamir] There is no connection between the two. Many different things will be heard there. There are various issues at stake, such as conditions, approaches, and details. We will make a serious effort to further the peace process. [passage omitted]

To Propose Territories Elections

TA2703070089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The document containing Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's ideas, prepared for his visit to Washington, includes a proposal for discussing an interim arrangement consisting of "full autonomy." A representation of residents of the territories would be elected in municipal elections to be held in the next 2 months. This was learned yesterday from a senior government source.

The PLO and Egypt object to this proposal, because municipal elections would prevent rural and East Jerusalem elements from attaining political achievements. It would prevent figures such as Faysal al-Husayni, Hanna Sinyurah, Sari al-Nusaybah, and others from even participating in such discussions. Shamir will propose a change in the timetable stipulated in the Camp David accords for discussions on the interim and final arrangements.

Shamir will reject outright the proposal that Israel make it clear a priori that it is willing to accept the principle of "territories for peace." In relation to this, President George Bush told Foreign Minister Moshe Arens that the arrangement should take into account "the legitimate nationalist rights of the Palestinian people." This remark was seen in Jerusalem as supporting the PLO demand for an independent entity.

In response to questions presented by the Alignment ministers at yesterday's Cabinet session, Arens said that Israel is aware of the fact that the U.S. interprets UN Resolutions 242 and 338 as "territories for peace." Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last week told a meeting of Alignment ministers that no arrangement is possible without adopting the principle of "territories for peace."

Shamir will insist that discussions on the permanent arrangement start only after the interim arrangement has passed the test of a substantial period of time, in accordance with the Camp David accords. Shamir will also reject the proposal—already accepted in principle by the PLO—that the discussions on the interim arrangement be held with a delegation of residents of the territories, while the discussions on the final arrangement be conducted with the participation of the PLO.

In yesterday's Cabinet meeting, Ministers Gad Ya'aqobi and Mordekhay Gur requested that a political debate be held before Shamir's departure for the United States. The prime minister, however, has already agreed with Peres and Rabin that the debate will be held in a narrow forum that will include the three and Foreign Minister Arens. Shim'on Peres has accepted Shamir's claim that a discussion in the Cabinet would be leaked and thus damage "Israel's tactics." [passage omitted]

On Relations With Egypt

TA2603075789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0607 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by moderator Shalom Qital, political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, and Cairo correspondent Aharon Barne'a, in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Qital] Do you have a festive feeling? Does this 10th anniversary fill you with a festive feeling?

[Shamir] Definitely yes. This date entails a certain festivity. After all, one does not sign a peace treaty every day, and this is the only peace treaty Israel has signed with an Arab country in the 40 years of its existence.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, at that time you were the Knesset speaker, and you abstained in that particular vote. In retrospect, do you think your abstention was justified?

[Shamir] I explained my reasons then. I favored peace with Egypt, but had reservations about several clauses in the treaty; that is why I abstained.

[Qital] Later as foreign minister and now as prime minister, you occasionally mention Camp David as being the formula, as being the basis. Do you believe the Camp David accords are still relevant today, 10 years after?

[Shamir] Indeed. I think the Camp David agreement was a very good one and an excellent basis for strengthening and establishing the relations of peace between Israel and its neighbors. I was very glad to hear this morning that U.S. President George Bush thinks likewise.

[Qital] Did that surprise you? After all, recently the United States has not used the Camp David formula too frequently.

[Shamir] I was glad to hear it do so this morning.

[Ben-'Ami] At the end of 10 years, former President Jimmy Carter, one of the godfathers of the Camp David accords, believes that the Reagan Administration—which was in power for 8 years, the lion's share of these 10 years of peace—failed to serve as a mediator and did not promote this process and that, consequently, no progress has actually been made. Carter feels that the new Bush administration will continue to promote this process. Do you, too, believe that we have actually wasted 10 years in which no progress was made?

[Shamir] It is a fact that no progress was made in these 10 years. I can say that this was not through any fault of ours. We were ready to work on it night and day, within the framework of the agreements, in order to further the relations of peace with our neighbors. Unfortunately, at a point after the assassination of President al-Sadat, Egypt unjustifiedly decided to halt these negotiations. This pause, which continues to this day, has had a negative effect.

[Qital] You mentioned Egypt. For this program we have set up a special studio in Cairo. Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a is there, and he will pose you a question. I do not know whether you have ever been interviewed from Egypt, but here is a question by our correspondent:

[Barne'a] Mr Prime Minister, 4 days ago we met President Mubarak, whose remarks we will broadcast shortly. He told us he had suggested to you that he come on a visit to Israel. The following day you made a statement opposing an international conference; 2 days later you came out against conceding territories; and the day after you said we would not pay a price for a visit by President Mubarak to Israel. What is your reaction to these comments, Mr Prime Minister?

[Shamir] I am sorry to say that these comments are inaccurate. As soon as we heard that President Mubarak had expressed his wish to visit Israel, we informed him both through the media and through other channels that we would gladly welcome him at any time suitable to him. A day or perhaps 2 days later, President Mubarak went back on his proposal, saying he would agree to come to Israel only after he is assured that Israel accepts his well-known demands concerning our participation in an international conference. At that point, of course, we said that no visit or meeting can be made conditional on the acceptance of unilateral demands.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, do you not think there is some kind of anomaly in the fact that the Egyptian president, the president of the only Arab country with which we have peace, met briefly with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in February 1986—a long time after the meetings his predecessor Anwar al-Sadat held with Prime Minister Menahem Begin—but does not hold regular meetings with the current prime minister? This is actually an anomaly in these relations of peace.

[Shamir] This is definitely an anomaly. Therefore, through the years, our demand has been to establish normal relations between Israel and Egypt. We have always said that the existence of a formal peace treaty is not enough, that it must be filled with real content. There must be normal relations between the two countries to that end. One of the attributes of normal relations is constant contacts between heads of state who, through personal meetings, try to clarify and settle occasional problems. Unfortunately, our wish has been rejected by the Egyptians for their own reasons.

[Qital] We have been talking a great length about Israeli-Egyptian relations, justifiedly so because today marks the 10th anniversary of the peace treaty between the two countries. In my opening remarks at the beginning of this program, I said that we would try to look into the future. It seems to me that you are the man with whom we should do so. You are at the helm of the Government in the State of Israel. Do you, like many others, think that the main problem is the Palestinian problem? Do you have any formulas for solving the problem between them and us?

[Shamir] I would say that one should not exaggeratedly emphasize one issue, which is only one of the facets of the peace question. Peace must be established between Israel and the Arab countries. Let us not forget that at the moment peace exists between us and Egypt but not with the other Arab countries, not even with those neighboring our country with which a state of war still exists, at least in theory. This must also be solved and settled. I would also like to point out that when mention is occasionally made of the danger of war, this danger looms because of the absence of peace between Israel and the Arab countries, because only countries can wage a war.

As for the problem of the Arab population living next to us, that is an important issue, and we think it must be solved. In fact, a considerable part of the Camp David accords was dedicated to a solution of this problem. We thought then, and we believe today, that this agreement is good and an excellent basis. In my opinion, these accords should be taken as the basis for negotiations.

[Ben-'Ami] I would like to fine-tune the question of my colleague Shalom Qital. This morning, in anticipation of this program, we broadcast a recorded passage of Prime Minister Menahem Begin's remarks before his departure for Cairo on 2 April 1979. In his statement, Begin rhetorically asked: Who would have thought 2 or 3 years ago that an Israeli prime minister would arrive in Cairo and be

greeted by a military parade and an Egyptian Army orchestra playing the Israeli national anthem? My question to you is: Seeing that the impossible did indeed come to pass, do you foresee that in 10 years the same will be said with regard to Jordan and the Palestinian issue?

[Barne'a] And perhaps with regard to the Syrian issue?

[Shamir] That is indeed our wish, that the move started by Menahem Begin should continue. Menahem Begin, then the Israeli prime minister, was definitely right when he said who would have thought this would happen. I believe that now that it has happened once, it must happen a few more times. We definitely yearn for this to happen, to go through once again the marvelous experience of establishing peace between us and other Arab elements.

[Qital] To end this interview, I would like to ask you a question pertaining to the very near future. You will be leaving for Washington next week. Some say you will be taking along some new formulas, the Camp David accords and the well-known positions of the Israeli Government notwithstanding. Will you definitely be presenting anything new?

[Shamir] There may be elements which I have not yet mentioned to the Americans or others. In any event, I will do everything possible, to the best of my understanding and perception of Israel's interests, to promote a solution to the problems, a solution which must bring about peace and a settlement of the conflict between us and the Arab world.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, does the fact that fate will have you and President Mubarak visiting Washington at the same time lead to a possible meeting between the two of you?

[Shamir] Apparently not. Fate is flighty when it comes to the situation in the Middle East, seeing that the sides to the conflict are Israel on the one hand and the Arab world on the other, with the United States as the most important international factor in the Middle East.

[Qital] Mr Prime Minister, this is the time to thank you. Today, instead of greeting you with good morning, we will simply just say shalom, shalom.

[Shamir] Shalom to you.

Rejects Palestinian State

JN2403180089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has affirmed that the State of Israel cannot coexist with a Palestinian state in this small area of the country, pointing out that the problem with us is a problem of life or death and a problem of survival. He added that the PLO must stop the intifadah [uprising] in the territories and that as soon as it does this, the demolition of houses will end, no one will be put in jail, and no school will be closed. Shamir also said that 'Arafat is a terrorist and has repeatedly called for the elimination of the State of Israel and the Israeli people. Shamir's statements came in a television interview broadcast in Washington.

Shamir Meets Notables With PLO Consent

TA2703101589 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpt] 'AL HAMISHMAR has learned that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir recently met with four Palestinian notables from the territories: Sari Nusaybah, Hanna Sinyurah, Fayiz abu Rahmah, and Ilyas Frayj. The four received approval for the meeting from the PLO leaders in Tunis. They even reported the results of the meetings to the PLO, although they are not members of the organization. [passage omitted]

PLO Permits Contacts Via Civil Administration

TA2603105289 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Mar 89 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The PLO has permitted its supporters in the territories to conduct political contacts with Israel via the Civil Administration. Last week, several discussions were held between 'Arafat supporters and Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration, in which they discussed political issues for the first time.

In this way, an indirect means of communication has been opened up between Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the PLO leadership.

Our correspondent has learned that permission was given during the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in Tunis after the United States raised Israel's complaint that the organization was terrorizing Palestinians in the territories, thereby preventing them from starting real talks with Israel. To encourage this dialogue, the defense minister decided at the end of last week to release 150 West Bank detainees from the Qezi'ot detention facility.

Palestinian sources in the territories said that in the talks with Gen Erez they discussed such issues as the right of return, the demilitarization of the Palestinian state, Rabin's plan for elections in the territories, and the status of the popular committees of the intifadah [uprising].

The contents of the talks and the names of the Palestinians who participated were not released, but our correspondent has learned that the PLO supporters said that they agree to the demilitarization of the Palestinian state on condition that Israel agrees to an international aegis

for the territories that would defend the Palestinians against the Israel Defense Forces and Jewish settlers. The Palestinians opposed elections in the territories if held under Israeli supervision.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the PLO left wing learned about the permission to maintain contacts with Israel granted by the PLO delegation to the talks with the United States. Last week's talks were therefore accompanied by pressures and threats against the Palestinian participants. The PFLP disseminated leaflets giving the names of those they suspected of having conferred with Erez.

At the end of last week, "the national institutions" in the territories published a leaflet calling for an immediate stop to all meetings between Palestinians and Israelis, except for meetings with Israeli leftists. The leaflets call on public figures in the territories not to attend meetings convened by the Civil Administration.

A Palestinian who participated in the talks with Gen Erez told our correspondent that the ban was aimed at enabling the various PLO components to reach an agreement on contacts with Israel that is acceptable to all. He opined that the contacts would continue, but under total secrecy, out of fear that those who oppose 'Arafat would not hesitate to harm the participants.

He pointed out that a local court made up of "the strike committees" has begun to operate in the Nabulus casbah, and that the area is considered liberated territory.

Leaflet Urges Arab Notables To Stop Meetings

TA2403202189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] A new leaflet disseminated today in East Jerusalem urges Arab notables in the territories to freeze their meetings with Israeli officials. The freeze is in order to divest the Israeli Government of the claim that it has partners for dialogue in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and so as not to divert attention from the PLO.

Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that the leaflet says that this prohibition does not include meetings with ordinary Israeli citizens.

Al-Husayni, Sinyurah Deny PLO Talks Agreement

TA2603204189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The conference on the Middle East crisis, attended by politicians and academics, ended this afternoon in Lausanne, Switzerland. All the parties to the conflict, including the PLO, now sincerely desire a settlement of the conflict, said the concluding communique.

Our correspondent Yo'av Tocker reports that the 11 Israelis who participated in the debate, including officials such as David Kimche, Nimrod Novik, and Abba Eban, rejected the criticism leveled at them in Israel for participating in the debates alongside Palestinian figures. No representatives of the PLO leadership in Tunis arrived at the conference.

Faysal al-Husayni and Hanna Sinyurah, the two Palestinian figures from the territories who attended the conference, denied to our correspondent Victor Nahmias the reports attributed to them according to which the PLO agrees to talks between Israel and residents of the territories, at the same time halting the uprising. The two have added that this issue was not raised at the conference.

Palestinian Right of Return Means Compensation

TA2603070989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Addressing an international conference in Switzerland attended on the Israeli side by senior figures and scientists, Palestinian speakers have said that when mention is made of the right of return for refugees, the meaning is monetary compensation. They added that at this early stage the PLO is prepared to have contacts between Palestinians from the territories and Israeli representatives, and only in the next stage to have its representatives directly involved in the negotiations.

One of the participants is David Kimche, former director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. He said that he is not attending the conference on an official mission, but noted that he had received the blessing of official elements and that Jerusalem perceives it as a positive development.

In the conference in Lausanne on development and economy in the Middle East, moderate statements were made by Hanna Sinyurah and Faysal al-Husayni. On the Israeli side, in addition to David Kimche, the conference is being attended by Abba Eban, Shlomo Avineri, Efrayim Sene, Aluf Har-Even, Hayim Ben-Shahar, and Shalhevet Freier. On the U.S. side the most prominent participants are Philip Habib and Richard Murphy. The Soviets are represented in the deliberations by the deputy director of the Moscow Academy of Sciences. Representatives from Egypt, Syria, and West European countries are also attending. The conference was initiated by Lord Weidenfeld, a British Jewish businessman.

Frayj Favors 'Negotiations' Over 'Unrest'

JN2603180989 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has been interviewed by our [West] Bank correspondent Ibrahim Shahid to mark 10 years since the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

[Begin recording] [Shahid] Bethlehem Mayor Mr Ilyas Frayj: Today marks the 10th anniversary of the Camp David agreement. What does this date mean to you?

[Frayj] The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty marked a historic step in that it opened the gate for peace between Israel and the Arabs. Cairo has a central role in closing Arab ranks. The Egyptian president, government, and people are to be thanked for their support of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. On this occasion, we must also note the consistent support for the Palestinian people's rights by His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government. Jordan has opened its gates and heart for the Palestinians. We take pride in this relationship with Jordan.

[Shahid] Mr Ilyas Frayj: What lesson, if any, have you learned from the Camp David agreement and its consequences and which you may want to share with officials?

[Frayj] The historical lesson to be learned from Camp David is that peoples' interests are better served by negotiations to arrive at peace than by slogans, wars, disturbances, or unrest. It is high time that peace was established in the Middle East, and particularly in the holy land, and that all Arab and Israeli parties agreed to sit and talk to make the desired peace.

[Shahid] Thank you, Mr Ilyas Frayj. [end recording]

Pazner Denies Preconditions on Mubarak Visit

TA2503112389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] The following is Jerusalem's response to the Egyptian president's remarks that Israel is not interested in his visiting the country. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's spokesman, said that when reports arrived from Cairo that President Husni Mubarak was considering visiting Israel, the prime minister responded by saying that he would be very happy to host him and talk to him about all the issues under dispute between the two countries. Several days later, however, the Egyptian president announced that if Israel does not accept his conditions for the peace process, he would not be interested in paying a visit. Mr Pazner stressed that Israel has never imposed preconditions on a visit by the Egyptian president.

Arens Receives Message From Baker on Tabah

TA2703175289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens categorically rules out that there will ever be a rift or a dispute between Israel and the United States under any circumstances whatsoever. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that in a briefing to senior Foreign Ministry officials about his talks in Washington, Minister Arens said that the United States wants to pursue close ties with Israel and the common goal of promoting the peace process. Both countries agree on direct negotiations and object to an international conference. Israel and the United States agree on the need to establish a dialogue with the population of the territories and to bring Jordan to the negotiating table.

Minister Arens received a message from his U.S. counterpart James Baker this evening stating that their talks in Washington had helped break the ground for making progress on the peace process. In his message, Secretary Baker praises the efficiency of the negotiations conducted on the issue of Tabah.

U.S. Urged To Transform 'Words' Into 'Deeds'

TA2403185589 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Mar 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The Essence Is in Deeds Not Words"]

[Text] In his testimony before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, Secretary of State James Baker acknowledged the existence of differences between the United States and Israel. He renewed his call to Israel to negotiate with the PLO, noting that the United States would be committing a grave error if it categorically, absolutely, totally, and completely ruled out any dialogue that might lead to peace.

The U.S. Secretary of State's testimony, despite containing a repetition—rejected by us—of the traditional U.S. position ruling out the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, holds clear indications of the beginning of a change in U.S. policy in the Middle East. This testimony also contained unusual language in referring to the minor strategic ally, Israel, which has always depended on the United States in challenging the decisions of international consensus under cover of the U.S. veto in the United Nations.

What is worth noting about Baker's answers to questions by Israel's supporters in the U.S. Congress is his call to the PLO not to stand in the way of Palestinians who take part in dialogue with Israel, while at the same time admitting that all efforts to find Palestinians who can negotiate in place of the PLO have failed.

The remarks by Baker before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, his call to Israel to negotiate with the PLO, and acceptance of the principle of land in return for peace have still not been put to the test of seriousness and sincerity. Therefore, they are not adequate for one to imagine that the U.S. Administration is prepared to adopt firm positions to moderate the Israeli stance opposed to peace.

While one cannot overlook this change in the U.S. position regarding the region's crisis, we still believe on the other hand that this position still has not reached the level required to qualify it to play an active role in advancing the peace process in the region, because the essence is in deeds not words.

PLO-U.S. Dialogue 'Still Way Off Course'

TA2703131489 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 27 Mar 89 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Needs To Show More To Gain Palestinian Trust"]

[Text] The second round of PLO-U.S. dialogue concluded in Tunis this week. Two sides talked for four-and-a-half hours about what each side thinks the other can contribute to a final settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Since the meeting took that long, one has little doubt that the two sides were discussing substantive issues that can determine the fate of millions of people.

It is encouraging to see both sides sitting and talking for this long. It is encouraging to see the U.S. getting more involved in the Middle East conflict, either through dialogue with the PLO or statements by its secretary of state about Israel's relations with the PLO. However, statements from both the Palestinian and American delegates after the meeting indicated that the PLO-U.S. dialogue is still way off course and the U.S. is still concerned about shallow issues, while ignoring the real problem.

These statements showed that the U.S. was more concerned with the welfare of Israel, ignoring that Israel remains the occupying force which is rejecting any calls for withdrawal of its occupation army. The U.S. still denies the Palestinian people the right to fight for their freedom by demanding that they stop all acts of resistance, whether they be armed or in the form of an uprising. In return for this, the U.S. promises the Palestinians only to work harder in convincing Israel to come to the negotiating table.

The U.S. wants the Palestinians to make all the concessions in return for nothing of substance from Israel. Even when it calls on the Palestinians to do that, it still reiterates its old position of rejecting the creation of a Palestinian state or simply granting the Palestinians the right to self-determination. The U.S., therefore, shows the Palestinians little to make them think that it really means business for them to agree to any of its demands.

If the U.S. does mean business, it has to show that not only in words, but in deeds. To ask the Palestinians, who are actually the victims, to surrender everything and not to ask Israel to do anything is not going to get anywhere. If the U.S. really wants the Palestinians to do more, then the least it can do is to show reciprocity.

It can start by recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and move on to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination which includes their right to independence. Such a step from the U.S. is necessary for confidence-building. After this, the U.S. should start working on Israel to soften its position and get it to be more reasonable.

When the Palestinian people begin to see such actions forthcoming from the U.S., then it should be easy for them to see American demands as sincere steps leading in the direction of peace.

Limits Put on Grants to Immigrating USSR Jews

TA2603094489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Mar 89 pp 1, 14

[Excerpts] Israel will stop giving Soviet Jews who receive Israeli visas at the Netherlands Embassy in Moscow a grant of some $1,000. The grant has been paid to those receiving an Israeli visa even if they do not come to Israel after all.

Sources in Jerusalem, who reported the decision, said that the decision was coordinated between the Israeli Government and Me'ir Shitrit, Jewish Agency treasurer.

The decision to stop the grant revealed for the first time the fact that the Jewish Agency and Israeli Government have been giving an average of $1,000 (the sum varies according to the personal situation of each applicant) to each immigrant even though most Soviet Jews who receive Israeli visas drop out in Vienna and go to the United States.

In 1990, some 50,000 Jews are expected to leave the USSR. Our correspondent Orly Azulay-Katz reports that this information was given at the latest meeting of Labor Party ministers, who discussed what could be done to absorb those who choose to come here as quickly as possible. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent has learned that from now on the grant will be given not only to those who arrive in Israel, but also to those who clearly intend to come here—for instance, those who leave on direct flights from Moscow to Romania on their way to Israel. Those who leave for Vienna, on the other hand, will not receive any grants unless they come to Israel.

Report 'Pulled the Rug' From Rabin Plan

TA2403172389 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Mar 89 pp 1, 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin disagrees with the Intelligence Branch's semiannual assessment stating that the PLO is the dominant element in the territories. Speaking within the defense establishment, he said that, on the contrary, Yasir 'Arafat's standing has weakened. In the Gaza Strip, for instance, 'Arafat has lost his influence to Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement].

In Rabin's opinion, the Israeli Islamic lists' success [in the local elections] reflects a similar rise in power beyond the Green Line. The defense minister added that quite a

few of the Intelligence Branch's past assessments have proven erroneous. This was learned by our correspondent from a defense establishment source.

Our correspondent notes that the Intelligence Branch's semiannual assessment has pulled the rug out from under Minister Rabin's plan to hold elections in the territories. In Rabin's opinion, the elections will prove that Yasir 'Arafat is not the omnipotent leader of the Palestinians in the territories. The results of the elections, especially if held first in Gaza, may be Israel's trump card when it tries to persuade the United States to discontinue the dialogue with 'Arafat.

Our correspondent has learned that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has reservations about holding general elections in the territories. He has said that at this stage the elections are too risky and that he would prefer the Palestinian representation to be determined by Egypt and Jordan. [passage omitted]

Rabin Undisturbed by Syrian Presence in Lebanon

TA2703115789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he hopes the fighting in Lebanon will end soon. He said the use of military force, either by factors inside or outside the country, will not resolve the problems there. The defense minister was speaking to high school students in Tel Aviv this morning. More details from Alan Ben-'Ami:

The defense minister says that no resolution of the problems in Lebanon will be found until the differing Lebanese factions and communities reach agreement among themselves. The use of military force, whether by factors inside or outside the country, will not bring any solutions. Israel, he said, seeks only to prevent terrorism from Lebanon, and the Israeli policy is clear enough without the need to declare it each and every time there is some sort of tension there, he said.

Regarding the Syrian presence in Lebanon, the defense minister said that as long as the Syrians do not move past a certain line south towards the Israeli-Lebanese border or introduce certain types of weapons which could endanger Israeli security, he did not care, as he put it, that the Syrians would sink into the Lebanese mud or have 35,000 Syrian soldiers pinned down there. The Syrians, he said, had not had unqualified success from their involvement in Lebanon. They had failed to get a president elected in Lebanon last September and had seen the parliament, the government, and the Lebanese Army split into two. I do not know what are the intentions of the Christian prime minister in Lebanon and whether he intends to continue fighting against pro-Syrian militias and particularly against the Syrian Army, but I do hope that the fighting will end, said Rabin. The situation there is a tragedy, first and foremost for the Lebanese themselves.

Asked about the situation in the territories, the defense minister said that Israel did not intend to give in to the violence there or talk to the PLO. He reiterated his proposals for negotiations with the Palestinians and for a resolution of the issue in gradual stages. He said the Palestinians would do well to give them serious consideration. Pointing out that only now are they talking about accepting a UN resolution for resolving the problem which was put forward more than 40 years ago, he asked how different things might have been for them had they accepted that proposal then.

40 Turned Down as 6,000 Muslims Go to Mecca

TA2503101889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Israeli authorities have turned down requests by 40 Muslims to go on pilgrimage to Mecca, in most cases for security reasons. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that over 6,000 Israeli Muslims will go to Mecca this year, the largest number ever since Saudi Arabia began permitting Israeli Muslims to travel to the holy city.

Cabinet Views Beirut Refugees in Security Zone

TA2603165789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] In Lebanon, tens of thousands of refugees are flocking from the areas of fighting in Beirut to the security zone controlled by the Israel Defense Forces. Details of this were reported in today's Cabinet session. Most of the refugees are Shi'ites, although some are Christians. Israel does not interfere, allowing the refugees to unite with their families.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen further reports that Israel follows closely the Amal-Hizballah agreement, according to which Hizballah terrorist cells are to be allowed transit through the Amal-controlled territory to carry out acts of violence in Israel. It was noted in the Cabinet meeting that there are signs in the field indicating that the agreement is being indeed implemented.

Poll Shows 56 Percent Oppose Talks With PLO

TA2403170289 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Mar 89 pp A1, 2

[Text] Some 56 percent of the interviewees polled recently believe that "there is no room for discussions with PLO representatives." Some 8 percent believe that there is room for discussions with the PLO for the sake of establishing a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. About 17 percent support negotiations with the PLO for the establishment of a Palestinian state on Jordanian territory, and 12 percent are in favor of negotiating with the PLO in order to establish autonomy for the Arab residents of Judaea and Samaria. About 7 percent replied that they are in favor of holding contacts with the PLO "for another purpose."

The poll, conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute directed by Dr Rahel Isre'eli, probed the public's attitude to the possibility of negotiations with PLO representatives. This was done through the question "do you believe negotiations should be conducted with the PLO, and if so, for what purpose?"

The findings reveal that about half of the interviewees believe there should be no negotiations with the PLO. A great majority of the group contending that negotiations with the PLO are desirable regard a settlement with Jordan as the purpose of these talks. Only a minority of the respondents said that negotiations should be held in order to achieve the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The poll was conducted in the second week of March in nationwide personal interviews with 1,251 respondents representing the Israeli adult Jewish population, with the exclusion of the inhabitants of kibbutzim, and of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Arens Most Popular Minister

TA2403181989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Mar 89 p A3

[Exclusive PORI Poll]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is now the most popular, and Finance Minister Shim'on Peres the least popular of the senior Cabinet ministers. This is the finding of a nationwide public opinion poll commissioned by HA'ARETZ.

Some 56.3 percent are now pleased with Arens as foreign minister, as compared to merely 25.6 percent who are satisfied with Peres as finance minister.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's popularity rose by 7 percent this month, from 40 percent (HA'ARETZ 13 February 1989) to the present 47 percent.

No tangible change has taken place in the popularity of the defense, construction and housing, and industry and trade ministers in comparison with the last poll: 55.8 percent are pleased with Yitzhaq Rabin, 48.1 percent are satisfied with David Levi, and 38.8 percent are satisfied with Ari'el Sharon.

The poll was conducted among 1,200 Jewish men and women over the age of 18 who were polled in personal interviews throughout the country.

Special Army Units for Territories Formed

TA2703100889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Mar 89 p 2

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] The number of reserve service days will be drastically cut in 1989 in comparison to 1988. As a result, the army will save millions of shekels.

Reserve soldiers will continue to make up the bulk of the forces employed in routine security in the territories. At the same time, the Israel Defense Forces are forming regular army units whose soldiers will serve their full term in the territories. The soldiers will undergo mechanized infantry basic training and will be sent for service in the territories at its conclusion. Each year these soldiers will serve 9 months in the territories and will train for the other 3.

IDF Facing Deficit 'Pressures' Due to Uprising

TA2603110489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Excerpts] The Israel Defense Forces [IDF] three-volume multiyear work plan, which will be presented to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in early April, deals with pressures in the military budget.

According to senior military sources, the IDF rang up a 580 million shekel deficit because of its expenditures on the intifadah [uprising]. The work plan was based on the understanding that funding the IDF's campaign against the intifadah would not come out of the defense budget, and that the IDF would be compensated. In fact, the Treasury has not paid back the IDF for its expenditures, and the 80 million shekels which the IDF was supposed to receive this year will not be transferred until next year. [passage omitted]

The Treasury claims that the IDF figures on the cost of fighting the intifadah are exaggerated and that having thousands of reservists serving in the territories rather than in training, which is more expensive, even saves some funds.

Villages Run Like 'Independent Palestinian Unit'

TA2603091189 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Mar 89 p 2

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] In West Bank villages the intifadah [uprising] is being formalized under the leadership of popular committees that operate as though they were an autonomous Palestinian authority.

Military sources said that many youths wanted by the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] spend their days in caves and other hiding places near their homes, returning at night to the villages that they run like an "independent Palestinian" unit.

The sources reported that in many cases those on the wanted list wear fatigues at night, set up roadblocks at the entrance to villages, establish observation posts to warn of any movement by IDF troops, destroy Israeli merchandise in the villages, and encourage residents to continue the intifadah.

The IDF carries out operations in the villages based on the number of forces available in each district. Most IDF patrols in the villages are motorized, while there are infantry patrols in the centers of the towns.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

8 Wounded in Unrest 24 Mar

TA2403202589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Excerpt] A 19-year old youth from the Tulkarm refugee camp, who was wounded in a confrontation with Israel Defense Forces [IDF] 2 days ago, died of his wounds today.

Eight residents were wounded in today's disturbances in the territories .

The police and the IDF are investigating the possibility that the driver of a civilian Israeli vehicle yesterday shot to death a 14-year-old youth near the Samarian village of Awsarin. Today the IDF spokesman announced that no army units operated in the village yesterday. [passage omitted]

3 Killed in Gaza Strip 25 Mar

TA2503132289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Disturbances were staged today in the Gaza Strip, mainly in Khan Yunus where, according to our correspondent Arye Gus, a 20-year-old was killed. The circumstances of his death have not been ascertained yet.

The bodies of two local residents were discovered in Rafah and in Gaza. An investigation by the security forces revealed that the deaths were the result of internal conflicts with criminal background. Locals said, however, that the two were murdered for assisting the authorities.

Military sources have reported six wounded, most of them in Khan Yunus. Curfews have been clamped on the town of Khan Yunus and the adjacent refugee camp, and on Rafah's Tall al-Sultan neighborhood.

4 Killed, 20 Wounded 25 Mar

TA2503171689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] The number of Gaza Strip residents killed today has risen to four. Two people were killed in disturbances in Gaza and Khan Yunus, and the bodies of two other residents were discovered in Gaza and Rafah. They were apparently assassinated by locals who suspected them of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that 11 residents were wounded in today's incidents in the Gaza Strip. In the village of Tarqumiyah on Hermon Hills, eight residents were wounded; one man was wounded in Nabulus.

Update on 24-25 Mar Incidents

TA2603085489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 March 89 p 2

[Report by David Regev and Roni Shaqed]

[Summary] "Sixty people were wounded by IDF gunfire in weekend incidents throughout the territories. Arab sources reported that most of the violent disturbances in the southern Gaza Strip occurred in the Khan Yunus and Rafah refugee camps."

In the disturbances, 16 residents of Khan Yunus were wounded, three of them seriously, while 15 were wounded in disturbances in Gaza city and the refugee camps in the center of the Strip.

"In a stormy weekend in the West Bank, 30 residents were wounded. On Friday, the focus of West Bank violence was the Nabulus area, where five people were injured in clashes with the army."

In Nabulus, youths "armed with knives threatened the lives of at least six Palestinian public figures" who met publicly with Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria," to discuss issues linked to the intifadah [uprising].

Israeli Boy Hit by Stone

TA2703055189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] An Israeli boy was wounded last night by a stone thrown at a vehicle in which he was traveling near the village of Al-Masarrah in the Tulkarm area. The boy was taken to a hospital in Kefar Sava. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the army imposed a curfew on the village and started wide-scale searches.

In the Gaza Strip, the army imposed a curfew on the Jabalyah refugee camp to prevent disturbances, while the curfews on the Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza, the Al-Shati' and Al-Burayj refugee camps, and the towns of Khan Yunus and Rafah continue.

Curfew Lifted in Part of Gaza

TA2603082089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The curfew was lifted from the Al-Mughazi and Al-Burayj refugee camps in the Gaza Strip this morning. A curfew is now in effect in the Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in the town of Gaza, and in the Al-Shati' and Rafah refugee camps. All workers from the Gaza Strip left for Israel as usual this morning.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 26 March reports that "the curfew on the town of Tulkarm and the nearby refugee camp was lifted early this morning. The curfew had been imposed last week following riots and demonstrations to protest the death of a boy in a clash with soldiers."]

4 Wounded Near Nabulus

TA2703082589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Four youths were wounded in the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus in clashes with Israeli soldiers. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the youths dismantled roadblocks at the entrance to the village and used them to block other roads. The wounded were taken to Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus.

There is a commercial strike in Judaea and Samaria today in solidarity with Arab farmers. Few Gaza Strip workers left for their jobs in Israel. [passage omitted]

Youth Wounded in Ramallah

TA2603091789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The body of an elderly person from the village of Silwan in East Jerusalem was discovered in the plantations of the settlement of Mikhmash, northeast of Jerusalem. The police are investigating the circumstances of the death.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a local youth was wounded in Ramallah by fire opened by passengers of an Israeli car that had been stoned.

4-Year-Old Killed in W. Bank

TA2703162689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] A 4-year-old boy was killed today in the village of Bayt Qad near Janin. The boy was shot when a policeman was forced to fire his gun during a stone-throwing incident. The security forces are investigating the circumstances of the case.

10 Wounded in 27 Mar Unrest

TA2703172689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Riots were reported today in Judaea and Samaria. Ten and perhaps even more people have reportedly been wounded. Five inhabitants of the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus were wounded this morning; later it was reported that another three people were wounded, two of them severely, in the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem. Two youths were wounded in the Gaza Strip in clashes with Israeli army soldiers.

A new leaflet on behalf of the Unified National Command of the Uprising was distributed today in the territories. The leaflet contains evaluations in anticipation of Land Day [30 March], saying that Land Day unified the Palestinian people on both sides of the Green Line. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the leaflet bans meetings between figures in the territories and Israeli officials, and threatens to hurt those who violate this order. The leaflet also calls on the United States to agree to an international conference. The leaflet assigns dates for general strikes and acts of protest.

Grenade in Galilee Seen as Escalated Nationalism

TA2603170489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] An escalation in the nationalistic activity in the Galilee: Last night, a hand grenade was thrown at a police van; it exploded a short distance from the vehicle. A Galilee District Police spokesman said it was a miracle that were there no injuries.

The incident took place at about 2300 last night on the road leading from the village of 'Arraba to Sakhnin. The policemen heard a violent explosion accompanied by a flash. A large police force, which were summoned to the site, launched searches. It was only this morning, after finding a grenade safety pin, that the authorities learned the object was a hand grenade.

The police are convinced that the incident was the result of an ambush and that the perpetrators had waited for the police van, but had missed their target. This is the first time a grenade has been thrown in the Galilee.

Early this afternoon, Galilee District Police Commander Ya'aqov Ganot summoned the leaders of the Arab villages of Sakhnin, 'Arraba, and Dayr Hanna, asking their intervention in the wake of the escalated nationalistic activity. The notables vehemently condemned the deed.

The police are continuing extensive searches for the grenade throwers.

King Husayn To Visit U.S. on 'Official Visit'

JN2503071989 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Mar 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn begins an official visit to Washington During the first week of May for formal talks with U.S. President George Bush and senior administration officials.

The King's talks with Bush will be part of exploratory talks the U.S. administration is launching with Jordan, Egypt and Israel.

The White House announced that Bush is scheduled to meet Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on April 3, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on April 6, while the King's talks are set for May 2. The King met briefly with Bush last month in Tokyo.

Jordan hopes Washington would assume a more prominent role in the Middle East peace process and encourage Israel to attend a proposed international peace conference.

The King had repeatedly stressed there was no need for new initiatives to solve the Middle East problem. He urged Israel to accept universally accepted solutions for the problem through a U.N.-sponsored peace conference to negotiate the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Departs for Talks in Egypt 25 Mar

JN2503121389 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] His majesty the king arrived in the Egyptian city of Fa'id today for a tripartite summit with President Husni Mubarak and visiting PLO Chairman Mr Yasir 'Arafat to coordinate Middle East moves.

His majesty was met upon arrival by President Mubarak and Mr Yasir 'Arafat as well as senior Egyptian Army and civilian officials. His majesty left Al-'Aqabah earlier today accompanied by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, and the foreign minister.

Returns From Visit to Egypt

JN2503190289 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this evening after a brief working visit to the Egyptian Arab Republic during which he held talks with His Excellency President Mubarak and PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat on the Palestine question and Palestinian developments as well as efforts on behalf of establishing peace in the region.

The three had held a round of talks in the afternoon at the Suez Canal Authority's building in Ismailia to resume the talks they began during a cruise aboard the yacht Al-Aqsa. The talks were interrupted by a working lunch hosted by President Mubarak.

His majesty the king, President Mubarak, and Mr 'Arafat held a news conference at the conclusion of their Ismailia talks. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Reportedly To Visit Syria 'Next Week'

JN2503162789 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Beirut—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that King Husayn of Jordan will visit Damascus early next week to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

A prominent political source close to the Syrian capital has said that contacts between the Syrian and Jordanian capitals have begun to prepare for this visit, which aims to hold consultations between the two leaders regarding the critical circumstances in which the Lebanese crisis is passing.

Aircraft Negotiations With Britain Suspended

JN2503135589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] London—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has declared that Jordan has decided to suspend negotiations with Britain to purchase Tornado aircraft and put off signing the relevant final agreement for financial reasons pending more favorable circumstances. The British Government appreciated our position and consented to our request that the pruchase be deferred, Al-Rifa'i said.

In an interview with the "World This Week" program broadcast by London radio yesterday, the prime minister said negotiations on the Tornado deal between Jordan and the UK began approximately 2 years ago. Our agreement covered the number of the aircraft representing our minimum requirements, the technical side, and cost as well as spare parts, maintenance, and training.

Asked about the French Mirage deal, which Jordan signed earlier, the prime minister said Jordan is known to honor its commitments and agreements. The Mirage deal was signed some time ago, Al-Rifa'i noted.

Production is already under way and the contract has long been in effect, said Al-Rifa'i. The deal was struck prior to our financial crisis. The Mirage deal, in terms of financing and payment, the grace period, and the number of years over which the cost is to be settled pose no problems to us, Al-Rifa'i said. It is not possible for us to abrogate a contract signed some time ago, he added.

On Jordan's economic crisis, the prime minister said that in actual fact the problem is financial rather than economic. Jordan's economy is in good shape and growing at a quite reasonable pace.

He observed that the financial problem was caused by Jordan's inability to service foreign debts, paying off loans and interest when they came due. When these sums were borrowed over the past 10 years, we believed sisterly Arab states would honor their financial obligations decreed by the Baghdad summit.

Successive Jordanian governmets, said Al-Rifa'i, have sought to make sure that the yearly sums allotted to service the foreign debt were less than the annual sums committed to Jordan. Unfortunately, however, the Arab commitments have, to date, failed to materialize, thus forcing us to draw on our assets for our debt repayment. This has led to increased pressure on our foreign currency reserves to the extent that we cannot continue paying back debts and their interest in full.

The total foreign debt owed by the Kingdom, the prime minister said, is virtually equal to the total of unfulfilled Arab commitments. Failure of the scheduled Arab assistance to be met on time is therefore the major if not the only reason responsible for our financial crisis.

The prime minister said we began contacts with the IMF some time ago. There is now an exploratory team of the IMF in Amman and official talks between us are slated to begain 28 March 1989. In the coming 2 weeks, we will, it is hoped, reach agreement on rescheduling the debts so we will be able to cope.

The prime minister emphasized that the the IMF is setting no economic constraints on Jordan in the event of a rescheduling of our debts. There are no strings attached, said Al-Rifa'i. The Jordanian Government has taken all the corrective measures needed to restructure Jordan's economy and no conditions will be imposed on us.

Naturally, we will refuse any limits we may hold to be detrimental to the Kingdom and the Jordanian people, the prime minister said.

Al-Rifa'i Receives U.S. House Member 26 Mar

JN2603143889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office this morning Thomas Campbell, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, currently visiting Jordan as part of a Middle East tour.

During the meeting they reviewed the latest developments and efforts to activate the peace process in the Middle East. The U.S. ambassador in Amman and the delegation accompanying Mr Campbell attended the meeting.

Fighting Continues Between Army, Syrian Forces

Syria Shells Kasrawan Coast

NC2403192589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1916 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Shells continue to fall on the Kasrawan coast. The Lebanese Army is currently returning fire. Security sources said that some of the Syrian emplacements in Upper al-Matn and 'Alayh received direct hits. We repeat our warning that citizens should take maximum precautions in light of [Syrian] intentions to flare up the situation tonight.

Fires Along Kasrawan Coast

NC2403194789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1936 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Because fires have broken out in some areas along the Kasrawan coast which were bombarded, we request civil defense teams be sent to extinguish the fires. We also request Lebanon's electricity company and the municipalities along the coast to turn off the electricity along the coastal highway immediately to avoid more fires. In another development, Syrian emplacements in Khaldah and 'Aytat received direct hits.

Bombardment Reaches Al-Biqa'

NC2403203489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Rockets and artillery rounds are still falling on residential neighborhoods in the capital, southern suburb, and mountain district. Flares are being dropped over the Al-Barbir area. A shell fell near the 'Abd al-Nasir mosque in Corniche al-Mazra'ah. Meanwhile, concentrated shellfire was directed at the Qasqas, Ard Jallul, Ra's al-Nab', Bisharah Khuri, Al-Shiyah, and Al-Murayjah areas.

In a similar development, a security source said that clashes involving tanks and mortars are raging along the combat lines of Al-Shuwayfat and Shima. The source added that the 'Aytat, Suq al-Gharb, Dahr al-Wahsh, 'Arayya, Al-Ma'rufiyah, and Bsaba areas are under intensive artillery bombardment. Meanwhile, Al-Biqa', Shtawrah, Jlala, Ta'labaya, and Al-Mudayrij were also bombarded.

Syrians Shell Southern Suburb

NC2403204989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] We have just received a new report from the editor's desk: According to security sources, Syrian artillery emplacements in the mountain have bombarded parts of the southern suburb, particularly Al-Shiyah and its vicinity. The Syrians concentrated their bombardment on these areas after Hizballah officials refused to take part in the bombardment [of East Beirut]. The same sources are apprehensive that the southern suburb quarters may again be targeted by Syrian posts. Meanwhile, we have learned that shells were fired at certain Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] positions after PSP officials refused to participate in bombarding the eastern areas.

Military sources affirmed to the Voice of Lebanon that the Lebanese Army emplacements did not and will not bombard any residential areas but will only focus on Syrian military positions.

'Indiscriminate' Fighting

NC2403204389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Indiscriminate Syrian bombardment is now concentrated in the B'abda area and its vicinity. Syrian rocket launchers opened up madly at various areas in southern Al-Matn and upper Al-Matn as well as in upper central, and coastal Kasrawan. Every town was hit by at least one rocket. Security sources told Voice of Lebanon that there is an aggressive intention to open treacherous fire at defenseless people, particularly in central and northern Al-Matn, and coastal and central Kasrawan. People are asked to be extremely vigilant regarding their safety.

Security sources told the Voice of Lebanon that the Lebanese Army artillery destroyed a Syrian ammunition depot near Radio Orient installations in the Khaldah area. Lebanese Army artillery also managed to destroy an assembly point of Syrian special forces in the Khaldah triangle. Explosions can now be heard in the area. Syrian artillery emplacements in Dahr al-Baydar, Tarshish, 'Ayn al-Ruhban, and in the Shtawrah area received direct hits. According to earlier reports, Syrian artillery emplacements in Khaldah, Dayr Qubil, 'Aytat, and 'Ayn 'Unub were destroyed. Wireless messages between Syrian posts were intercepted. These indicate that the Syrians intend to bombard the southern suburb in a bid to enmesh the Lebanese parties in the area in the ongoing clashes between the Lebanese Army and the Syrian forces and to pretend that the war is inter-Lebanese and not a Lebanese-Syrian one. [passage omitted]

Beirut Port Shelled

NC2503084189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] The port of Beirut has been shelled four times this morning. The latest shelling was 9 minutes ago, and 13 shells have fallen at the port so far. No exact information is available yet on human and material casualties resulting from the bombardment. The country has not witnessed anything like this for years.

Syrians Deploy Troops, Arms

NC2503124389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] According to information received by Radio Free Lebanon, the Syrian occupation army has brought seven 122-mm and 130-mm guns to the area of Kafr Hazir, precisely to the Al-'Ali locality, and set them up near the rocket launches.

The information added that trucks unloaded ammunition in the areas of (Turakish) and 'Ana, and that the Syrian occupation forces have brought two 122-mm artillery batteries to the area of Kafr 'Abidan on the fringes of Mazra'at al-Baqar.

The information also says that the Syrians brought a company of special units from Hamat Airport and deployed it in coastal positions in the north last Thursday.

Army Command Cautions Citizens

NC2503174689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Excerpts] According to the latest reports, central Al-Matn, the coast of Al-Matn, and Kasrawan have been coming under concentrated shelling for some time now. B'abda, in southern Al-Matn, has also been subjected to shelling for the past few minutes. [passage omitted]

The Army Command has issued the following statement:

The Syrian occupiers have engaged in the shelling of residential areas in order to inflict maximum casualties among civilians. The Presidential Palace in B'abda has been bombarded for the 2d consecutive day in an another attempt to assassinate the head of the legitimate Lebanese authority. The intentions of the Syrian occupiers to continue the crime and expand the area of the shelling have become known. Therefore, in order to save the lives of our people in the areas under Syrian occupation, the Army Command calls on Lebanese citizens living close to Syrian rocket launcher and artillery emplacements or other Syrian military installations to get away from these areas as soon as they can in order not to endanger their lives.

Bombardment Aimed at E. Beirut

NC2503193989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] According to the latest security reports, the Syrian bombardment is currently directed at B'abda and its environs, Al-Mansuriyah, Bayt Miri, Brummanah, B'abdat, Bikfayya, and central Kasrawan.

We have just received this report from the editor's desk: Indiscriminate and concentrated bombardment is now being directed at central Kasrawan. Several fires have broken out in the region. Firemen are asked to proceed to the area.

The Lebanese Army is returning the fire with the appropriate means. It succeeded in destroying two Syrian rocket launchers on the airport road, killing six soldiers. It later hit a Syrian tank in Duhur al-'Ibadiyah.

The Syrian aggression has targeted most areas of East Beirut, particularly B'abda and its vicinity, where hundreds of shells have fallen. Shells and rockets have also landed in Al-Hadath, Kafr Shima, Al-Hazimiyah, Upper and Central al-Matn, and central Kasrawan. The bestial Syrian bombardment has caused civilian casualties.

'All Areas' Under Mortar Fire

NC2503202289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] All areas, particularly Al-Tayyunah, Al-Matahin, and Mar Mikha'il in the southern suburb, are coming under violent 120-mm and 82-mm mortar fire. The Al-Ghubayrah, Al-Shiyah, Harat Hurayk, and Kuwaiti Embassy areas are being subjected to intermittent shellfire. The bombardment of Al-Raml al-'Ali, the airport road, and Al-Shuwayfat is continuing. Flares are also being fired.

Progressive Socialist Party sources have spoken of violent shelling directed against the Khaldah, 'Ayn 'Nub, and 'Alayh areas.

The Al-Hizimiyhah, B'abda, Jisr al-Basha, Chevrolet, Al-Mansuriyah, Bayt Miri, and Kasrawan coast areas are coming under similar shelling.

Intensity of Fire 'Eased'

NC2503212989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The intensity of the Syrian bombardment eased off a short while ago. From 2215, the bombardment was concentrated on Furn al-Shubbak and 'Ayn al-Rummanah from Syrian positions in the southern suburb. The bombardment of B'abda and its vicinity, Upper and Central al-Matn, and Kasrawan also eased. However, sporadic shelling of these areas continues. [passage omitted]

Syrian Emplacements Hit

NC2603070189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] According to information available to our radio, the Lebanese Army returned the Syrian emplacements' fire, hitting a Syrian emplacement in Hammana, where three members of the occupation troops were killed and a number of others wounded. A Syrian emplacement in Al-Shuwayfat, which housed a number of artillery batteries, was destroyed after receiving direct hits. A large number of its crewmen were either killed or wounded.

In Bhamdun, a Syrian emplacement was hit, leaving two Syrian soldiers dead and three others wounded. The wounded are named Jasim and Sa'id, but their surnames could not be identified. A rocket launcher was destroyed in Al-Rasul al-A'zam area in Beirut's southern suburb. An artillery emplacement was destroyed in the vicinity of Sabra, leaving a number of Syrian occupation troops dead. A military truck was also burned.

Sources have revealed to our radio that a Syrian truck overturned along the Dahr al-Baydar road as a result of the Army's fire, leaving two persons dead and a number of others wounded.

Explosion in Port Area

NC2603145789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The Syrians resumed their treacherous bombardment of the Kasrawan Coast this afternoon. Four shells landed in central Kasrawan between 1530 and 1620. We have just learned that a huge explosion took place in the port area a few minutes ago. We remind the citizens that they should take maximum precautions in light of the Syrian occupation forces' intentions to make the situation flare up.

Shells Fall in W. Beirut

NC2603151789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] A security source has indicated that two shells fell in Tallat al-Khayyat at around 1600. Two other shells fell in 'Ayn al-Muraysah.

Meanwhile, fighting involving the use of machineguns and rockets is currently raging along the mountain combat lines.

'Intermittent' Fighting

NC2603175789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Kasrawan Coast and central area came under shellfire at 1445 today. Shelling of these areas continued intermittently until now and covered Jumhur, 'Arayya, and Al-Kahhalah, causing a fire and power failure. The central Al-Matn area was also shelled. This called for retaliation against the attacking artillery emplacements in Al-Maramil, Al-Awza'i, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, and Ra's al-Nab' where casualties have been reported, including eight wounded.

Intermittent clashes took place in the Sannin, Al-Matahin, and Al-Barid areas. One shell fell on the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Rummanah. An intermittent exchange of fire also took place on the Suq al-Gharb combat lines.

Firing in Beirut, Al-Biqa'

NC2603181689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Following the relative calm which prevailed in the morning, the 'Awn clique exacerbated the situation this afternoon in the capital, shelling residential areas in Tallat al-Khayyat, Al-Ramlah al-Bayda', Al-Rawshah, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, the vicinity of the Saudi Embassy, Al-Awza'i, Al-Maramil, the vicinity of al-Sharq al-Awsat Hospital, Wadi Abu Jamil, Burj al-Murr, and Jisr al-Matar.

We have been informed that the shelling of Wadi Abu Jamil killed a man and injured three others. The sources of the shelling have been defined as Central Kasrawan, Juniyah, the Al-Matn coast, 'Arayya, Al-Jumhur, and Al-Kahhalah.

Fighting in which various types of weapons are being used is reported in the commercial market area. Clashes are also reported on the combat lines of Al-Matahin and Al-Barid in the southern suburb. Sniper fire is reported on the mountain combat lines.

This afternoon, 'Awn's clique shelled areas in Al-Biqa', where shells fell on Bidnayil, 'Ali al-Nahri, and Riyaq.

Syrians Shell E. Beirut

NC2603191589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1905 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Hundreds of rocket launchers and artillery emplacements in Beirut, Al-Shuwayfat, Sannin, Tarshish, Shwit, Bulunya, Duhur al-Shuwayr, and Upper al-Matn are pouring their fire and steel in an indiscriminate and mad manner on Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Hazimiyah, Al-Yarzah, B'abda, Kasrawan, and the coastal, central, and mountain areas of Al-Matn. The Army is retaliating with suitable weapons in a concentrated and violent manner and has been able to silence a number of emplacements.

Shelling on Upper Al-Matn

NC2603193489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1919 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The treacherous Syrian bombardment is now concentrated on the Al-Matn coast while it has subsided in other East Beirut areas. We have just learned that the Army has returned Syrian artillery fire in Upper al-Matn and Al-Biqa' and the Riyaq-Ba'labakk road. It has been learned that the Progressive Socialist Party and the Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon have asked their artillery units to be on alert in order to participate in bombarding East Beirut areas. The Ba'th party leadership has requested arms and ammunition supplies from Al-Biqa' be sent to Upper al-Matn and West Beirut.

Syrian Arms Dump Destroyed

NC2603195189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1940 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] According to the latest security reports, the Lebanese Army has scored direct hits on a Syrian ammunition dump in Al-Janah. Explosions are still being heard in the area. Meanwhile, fierce fighting is currently raging along the old commercial markets' combat lines. We have just learned that the Kasrawan Coast is still being bombarded.

Army Hits 2 Rocket Launchers

NC2603201489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1955 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The outskirts of Al-Ashrafiyah were shelled by a number of mortar shells from West Beirut a short time ago. The central Kasrawan area and the Al-Matn are coming under rocket fire. The Lebanese Army is retaliating in a concentrated and violent manner. It shelled Syrian centers and artillery emplacements in central Al-Biqa', Al-Shuwayfat, and West Beirut, silenced a number of emplacements, and hit two rocket launchers.

[In a related report on the fighting in Beirut, Paris AFP in English at 2003 GMT on 26 March adds, "Many parts of the city and other nearby regions were meanwhile plunged into darkness Sunday night after a shell hit a power station at Jumhur, near Ba'bda."]

Al-Huss Residence Under Fire

NC2603202689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The spiteful gangs of Al-Yarzah are still escalating the military situation on all the combat lines and directing their sporadic shelling at the capital, the suburb, the coast, the mountain, and Al-Biqa'. The situation shows no sign of relaxation so far. A short while ago, shelling of central Al-Biqa' intensified. Sa'd Nayil, Ta'labaya, Jalalah, Shtawrah, and Qabb Ilyas are coming under concentrated fire there.

At 2110, the residence of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss in Al-Dawhah came under artillery shelling by the Al-Yarzah Army.

Fire on 'Free Areas' Continues

NC2603205789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2044 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Attacks on the free areas are continuing. The 'Ayn al-Rummanah and the outskirts of Al-Ashrafiyah are currently being shelled by mortars.

Meanwhile, we have learned that last night the Syrians shelled the residence of Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib for a known purpose and in an abortive attempt to turn the Lebanese-Syrian war into an inter-Lebanese conflict.

We have been informed a short while ago that the central Al-Matn area has been hit by a number of artillery shells and rockets. The Army is retaliating against the Syrian artillery emplacements which are shelling the Al-Matn area. A convoy of three armored vehicles were destroyed at the 'Alayh traffic circle.

Syrians Plan To Provoke Inter-Army Clashes

NC2503080489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] According to information received this morning, nine Syrian occupation troops were killed and 17 others wounded during the past 3 days. The dead include Syrian Army First Lieutenant 'Ali Najm, who was buried in his village near Tartus yesterday.

It has been reported that the Syrian occupation forces in the Al-Biqa' areas, particularly in Al-Hirmil, are supervising the organization of groups of fighters in order to send them to the fronts in Beirut. Acting on Syrian orders, Hizballah used loudspeakers in Ba'labakk to call for volunteers to join the fighting.

In addition to the casualties inflicted in the Syrian Army ranks by the Lebanese Army's retaliation, information received from Al-Biqa' affirms that movement is paralyzed there, especially on the commercial route extending from (Al-Jadidah) in Shtawrah to Al-Biqa'. Movement from Syria in the direction of Shtawrah has also been very light.

The reports said that the Syrian occupation forces are preparing a plan to dispatch Lebanese Army brigades from the north and West Beirut to the combat lines. They have moved vanguards from the 2d Brigade in the north in the direction of Al-Madfun, furnishing them with six tanks, four guns, vehicles, and ammunition. The reports revealed that the officers in this brigade did not want to move and that former President Sulayman Franjiyah and Lawyer 'Umar Karami have been contacted on this. However, the move was carried out despite opposition to it.

Meanwhile, the Syrian occupation forces have handed over an artillery company to the brigades under Major General Sami al-Kharib in West Beirut. They are also preparing to give him two fully equipped armored battalions and two artillery battalions in the next 2 weeks.

The Syrian occupation forces have also transferred three battalions to the Suq al-Gharb front from Beirut's southern suburb and given various types of weapons to the 1st and 10th Brigades.

Information indicates that the purpose of all this is to turn the Lebanese-Syrian battle into a war between the two [Lebanese] armies, according to a Syrian plan. For this reason, the brigades under the command of Al-Khatib are being equipped so that he will have three complete and fully equipped brigades that qualify them for confrontation. Al-Khatib agreed to this plan. He has received the weapons and [word indistinct] rocket launchers and has set them up in Al-Awza'i and the area around the airport.

Afghanistan

Kabul-Mujahidin Fighting in Provinces Reported

Rebel Arms Convoys Destroyed

LD2403161989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1430 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] An Air Force source reported to the BIA military section that during yesterday's Air Force operations in Nangarhar and Konarha, our heroic and brave pilots detected seven enemy arms convoys and set them ablaze. These convoys, which were carrying arms from Pakistani depots to the border provinces of Nangarhar and Konarha, came under the crushing blows of our brave pilots and were eliminated. The reports adds that the convoys were detected and destroyed in the areas of (Yasin Baba), Shiveh, Khivoh, Shegah, Darreh-ye Nur, 'Abd ol Kheyl, and Ghaziabad in Nangarhar Province and in the areas of (Nawagai) and Asadabad in Konarha Province.

According to reports from behind the enemy front, the convoy belonged to divisions No 11 and 18 of the Pakistani Armed Forces, which are widely involved in the fighting in Nangarhar Province and in supply work behind the enemy front lines. According to intelligence reports, as a result of the Afghan Air Force raid, thousands of invaders arms and ammunition were burned, and the enemy's destroyed convoys burned for hours.

232 Rebels Killed in Jalalabad

LD2403192889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section reports that the units of the Armed Forces have further reinforced their positions and fortifications over the past 24 hours. The heroic Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan inflicted crushing and resolute blows on the extremist groups and their militarist Pakistani supporters who disrupted security and conducted aggressive combat attacks in some areas. They destroyed positions and fortifications and supply depots and convoys of the warmonger elements baked by Pakistani militarists.

Military reports say that the situation in most provinces and areas of the country is normal. The Kabul-Salang highway is open to traffic. The movement of state and private vehicles and supply convoys continues normally. Most units have returned to their previous positions. The BAKHTAR military section, quoting the Armed Forces, adds that extremist groups fired heavy arms on the security posts and residential areas of the city of Gardeyz, Paktia Province, resulting in a loss of life.

According to another report, in a clearing up operation in the village of Malangan, in Qandahar, 37 shells from recoilless guns and many enemy light weapons were captured by the security forces. Similarly, seven fortified positions and four enemy trenches were destroyed.

A report from Herat Province says that as a result of artillery fire near Enjil, six armed extremists were killed.

An authoritative source of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan reported to the BAKHTAR military section on the military situation in Nangarhar Province over the past 24 hours. Joint Pakistani and extremist forces connected to them continued their rocket attacks from the directions of Sorkh Rud, Chapliar Khwar, Ghaziabad, and Shiveh on the city of Jalalabad and its security posts.

The enemy lodged a big attack from the direction of Shiveh backed by a large number of tanks, armored vehicles, [word indistinct] and a supply convoy, which arrived in Konarha from Pakistan and from there to Shiveh. The extremist forces consisted of Ekhwani [members of fundamentalist groups] and Wahabis [a sect dominant in Saudi Arabia] and were led by Pakistani commanders and Saudi advisers. The heroic Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, locating the lines of the enemy attack, conducted a counterattack. Using artillery fire, they fired crushing blows against the attackers and their supply routes.

The experienced Afghan Air Force played a great role in yesterday's combat operations. Enemy attacks from all directions were halted or repulsed. As a result of Afghan forces' crushing blows, 232 invaders were killed and 130 were injured. Similarly, 3 arms and ammunition depots, 21 rocket launchers, 4 mortars, 6 missiles, 9 recoilless guns, 2 DShK machine guns, 3 BM-1's, 2 [word indistinct], 16 tanks, enemy supply vehicles, and a large number of light arms, along with 18 fortified enemy positions were destroyed.

According to the report, joint forces of Pakistan and the extremists connected to it fired as many as 4,500 missiles, mortar shells, and BM-1 and BM-12 rockets on the city of Jalalabad and its security posts. As a result 4 members of the heroic Armed Forces became martyrs and 7 were injured. Similarly 6 civilians became martyrs and 20 were injured, mostly women and children. Seven houses, four shops, and three military vehicles were destroyed and damaged.

According to another report, a supply convoy of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan arrived this afternoon in Jalalabad from Kabul.

Rebels Take Post Near Behsud

BK2503022089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Reports have come in about fierce fighting north of the Afghan city of Jalalabad where the mujahidin have launched a new front for control of the city. The mujahidin occupied the Arkan Post near Behsud. The Kabul regime troops stationed at 12 small posts defected to the mujahidin. The mujahidin also foiled the Kabul regime troops' attempt to reopen the Kabul-Jalalabad highway and blew up another strategic bridge on the highway.

Jalalabad Bridge Blown Up

BK2503082089 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] The Kabul regime has admitted that it is now finding it difficult to send supplies along the main road from Kabul to Jalalabad. A spokesman of the regime has acknowledged that mujahidin blew up a bridge on the road on Tuesday [21 March] and said they had been fighting outside the provincial capital. Around Kabul itself, the Kabul regime Army has been strengthening defense by setting up new outposts with artillery and communications equipment.

2d Attack Launched on Jalalabad

BK2503151089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1452 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 25 (AFP)—Afghan resistance fighters launched a big attack on Jalalabad Saturday after a lull of several days in the fighting, mujahidin guerrilla sources here said. "The city is under intense guerrilla attacks from all sides," the sources said, adding that pressure has also been increased on the airport and its airfield is under heavy fire. They said Saturday's attack on Jalalabad, which includes intensified long-range artillery fire, was launched to reduce pressure from government troops on the highway linking the city with Kabul. Heavy fighting was reported along the Behsud bridge near Jalalabad, the guerrilla sources said, adding that the capture of the bridge could ease their entry into the city from its northern flank.

Jalalabad, halfway between Kabul and the Pakistan border, is Afghanistan's third-largest city and was chosen as the guerrillas' first major target after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country in February. The guerrillas launched their main offensive against Jalalabad on March 7, but their advance has slowed after initial gains which included the fall of a key garrison at Samar Kheyl, 10 kilometers (six miles) from the city centre.

The sources said Afghan troops made their fourth successive attempt this week to reopen the Kabul-Jalalabad highway on Friday with a two-pronged attack on guerrilla positions around Sarowbi. The town, halfway between Kabul and Jalalabad, has witnessed three unsuccessful attacks to resupply Jalalabad in the past four days, they said.

Sources said government troops moved out simultaneously from Kabul and Jalalabad "to sandwich" the guerrillas at Sarowbi. "But the latest strategy also failed and mujahidin artillery did not allow the two convoys to meet and clear the road," they said. Guerrillas shot down one helicopter and retreating troops left behind four tanks and three military vehicles ablaze, the sources said. At least 11 government soldiers died including a helicopter crew, they added. It was the third helicopter shot down in the past two days on the highway, they said.

Government troops now in Jalalabad for several weeks are in desperate need of overland supplies as helicopter shipments have so far been insufficient because of the severity of the war, Afghan specialist here say. Resistance sources said four more posts fell to the mujahidin in overnight fighting Friday when troops abandoned their positions in the northwest of the city. The rebels captured one tank and one military vehicle and a considerable quantity of ammunition.

12 Military Posts Captured

BK2503154389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that in the fierce fighting for control of Jalalabad over the past 2 days, the mujahidin captured more than 12 Kabul regime military posts around Jalalabad city. They also captured a brigade headquarters and a vast area along the Kabul River. The mujahidin shot down a helicopter carrying supplies to the besieged Kabul soldiers in Jalalabad.

According to reports, after consolidating their positions to the east of Jalalabad city and to the north of the airport, the mujahidin are now increasing pressure on the besieged city and its airport. They say half of the airport is already under their control. To ease the pressure, the Kabul regime's Air Force has heavily bombed the mujahidin. The mujahidin have now begun attacks on the northwestern part of Jalalabad instead of the northeastern part of the city. The mujahidin commander said they are now completely in control of the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. The Kabul regime admitted that it is now facing difficulties in sending supplies from Kabul to Jalalabad through the main highway.

Reports also say that the mujahidin captured two posts around Shindand in Farah Province after fierce fighting. They also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Meanwhile, 16 Kabul soldiers surrendered to the mujahidin with their arms at Parkand post.

Jalalabad Supply Efforts Foiled

BK2503165889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1656 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 25 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas said Saturday they had captured a strategic post south of Jalalabad and attacked the main garrison defending the city. The rebels, who began their largest offensive in several days against the key eastern Afghan city at midday Saturday, captured Parkand post in the south after heavy fighting in which an unspecified number of troops were killed, resistance sources here said. The sources said the post, which serves as defence line for the Afghan Army's 81st Brigade and its airport, fell late Saturday and has weakened the position of the government troops. Both the 81st Brigade and and the Afghan Government's First Corps is defending Jalalabad, Afghanistan's third largest city located between Kabul and the Pakistan frontier.

The guerrillas entered Lowgar-e village "without fighting" after troops fled to Jalalabad following the fall of Parkand, the sources said, adding that "the mujahidin were now shelling the brigade."

The rebels also ambushed a 150-vehicle supply convoy on the western Kabul-Jalalabad highway and set fire to dozens of trucks loaded with food and ammunition for government troops, they said. The convoy was waiting for government orders at Bargo Kaf near Sarowbi before proceding for Jalalabad following repeated attempts by the Afghan Government to reopen the road. The sources said more than a dozen soldiers were killed in the attack while many more abandoned their vehicles and joined the mujahidin.

Radio Kabul, monitored here, said there was heavy fighting on the highway and that five government soldiers had died while 93 resistance soldiers were killed. The broadcast said 124 guerrillas have been killed in the clashes around the city in the past 24 hours.

The resistance launched its main offensive against Jalalabad on March 7, but its advance has slowed after initial gains which included the fall of a key garrison at Samar Kheyl, 10 kilometers (six miles) from the city centre.

Resistance sources said heavy fighting was again raging around Jalalabad after a lull lasting several days. "The city is under intense guerrilla attacks from all sides," the sources said, adding that pressure has also been increased on the airport and its airfield is under heavy fire. They said Saturday's attack on Jalalabad, which includes intensified long-range artillery fire, was launched to reduce pressure from government troops on the highway linking the city with Kabul.

Heavy fighting was also reported along the Behsud Bridge near Jalalabad, the guerrilla sources said, adding that the capture of the bridge could ease their entry into the city from its northern flank. Jalalabad was chosen as the guerrillas' first major target after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country in February. The sources said Afghan troops made their fourth successive attempt this week to reopen the Kabul-Jalalabad highway on Friday with a two-pronged attack on guerrilla positions around Sarowbi. The town, halfway between Kabul and Jalalabad, has witnessed three unsuccessful attacks to resupply Jalalabad in the past four days, they said.

Government troops now in Jalalabad for several weeks are in desperate need of overland supplies as helicopter shipments have so far been insufficient because of the severity of the war, Afghan specialists here say.

Resistance sources said four more posts fell to the mujahidin in overnight fighting Friday when troops abandoned their positions in the northwest of the city. The rebels captured one tank and one military vehicle and a considerable quantity of ammunition.

Army Retakes Jalalabad Positions

LD2503161389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Rocket and other heavy weapon attacks on Jalalabad city and its surroundings by Pakistani and extremist forces attached to Pakistan continued yesterday.

A competent source of the country's Armed Forces reported to the BIA military section that during the past 24 hours rockets, artillery, mortars, and heavy weapons were fired by Pakistani subunits taking part in the attacks on Jalalabad city. As a result of the attacks, one soldier was martyred and six men, including two residents, were wounded.

As a result of regular blows by the artillery and air forces of the Republic of Afghanistan on the enemy ranks, 124 enemy forces, including 3 commanders, 3 Pakistani militia, and 2 Saudi advisers were killed and 77 others were wounded.

Three enemy weapons and ammunition depots, 16 rocket launchers, 4 mortars, 4 rockets, 2 recoilless guns, 45 light weapons, 12 vehicles loaded with weapons and ammunition, 1 tank, and 3 command centers were destroyed.

Afghan Armed Forces subunits retook their previous military position. The joint efforts by Pakistani forces and extremists attached to Pakistan to advance were foiled and eliminated by the brave Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to another report, attempts by armed extremists attached to Pakistan to disrupt the security of the Kabul-Jalalabad highway and to disrupt the traffic were foiled during operations carried out recently by the courageous Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. During these operations 93 enemy personnel were killed and 36 were wounded. Three recoilless guns, five mortars, two rocket units, and an enemy convoy were destroyed. As a result of enemy fire, five brave personnel of the Armed Forces were injured and a transportation vehicle was set on fire.

The report adds that as a result of this successful operation, in addition to a major supply convoy which arrived in Jalalabad from Kabul yesterday, another supply convoy arrived in Jalalabad city today.

'Huge Attack' in Qandahar

LD2503163289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] A huge attack by joint Pakistani forces and extremist groups attached to Pakistan was repulsed in Qandahar Province on 24 March.

A reliable source in the Armed Forces told BAKHTAR's military section that at 1630 on 24 March, 3,500 extremists attached to Pakistan attacked security posts at Towr and Kowtal and the airport in Qandahar Province from the direction of Takhteh Pol and Makwan. Five hundred Pakistani soldiers in militia uniforms and 13 Saudi advisers were with the invading forces.

With advance readiness and high combat morale the heroic Afghan Armed Forces stationed in Qandahar Province counterattacked and inflicted crushing blows on the ranks of the enemy. The heroic Air Force of the Republic of Afghanistan participated in the counterattacks.

As a result of coordinated attacks by the Afghan Armed Forces, 179 invaders were killed and over 200 were injured.

The enemy forces, under the accurate and intensive blows of the Afghan Armed Forces, were forced to retreat and to flee. They did not even have time to collect all the bodies of those killed. Thus, 95 corpses fell into the hands of the Afghan forces. Seven Pakistani soldiers and two extremist commanders were identified from among the corpses.

Eighteen rocket launchers, 39 Kalashnikovs and thousands of rounds of various types of ammunition were seized by the Afghan Armed Forces. Thirty eight rockets, 23 recoilless guns, 16 mortars, and a large number of enemy strongholds were destroyed.

Afghan forces' losses were minor due to the effective use of the terrain and safe fortifications. As a result of the enemy's heavy weapon shelling, (?three) soldiers were killed and seven were wounded.

Qandahar Offensive Confirmed

BK2603024089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] According to reports, mujahidin in Afghanistan have launched a major offensive on Qandahar. A Kabul regime spokesman described the attack as one of the most serious since the Soviet pullout. However, he claimed the offensive has been foiled.

The mujahidin captured Parkand post, south of Jalalabad city, after killing numerous Kabul regime forces during the fighting in that sector. The mujahidin entered Lowgar-e village without any fighting because the Kabul regime troops there fled to Jalalabad after the fall of Parkand post, which was serving as a major defense line for the airport.

Part of Jalalabad Airport Falls

BK2603125089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1240 GMT 26 Mar 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 26 (AFP)—Afghan rebels were advancing Sunday on the main army bases north and south of Jalalabad after capturing a strategic post in an overnight battle at the city's airport, resistance sources here said. They said the rebels control of "more than half of the airport" consolidated with the fall of an underground base where troops had dug in after the resistance began the attack on the city three weeks ago. The rebels second major attack on the strategic city has come from all sides, the sources said.

The battle for Jalalabad, about 150 kilometers east of Kabul and some 75 kilometers west of the border with Pakistan, is said to be the bloodiest of the 10-year-old Afghan civil war. In the latest big offensive, which came after a lull lasting several days, the guerrillas captured five more posts between Darunta and Bahrabad, west of the city's airport, they said.

The mujahidin killed five government soldiers and captured one in the fierce fighting, they said. The guerrillas also took some weapons from a captured bunker at the airport, they said. The sources said government troops remained only in the northern terminal building and that rebels were controlling the runway from three sides. The guerrillas in a "change of strategy" were no longer concentrating on the less important terminal building where "resistance was not much," the sources said. There were reports that troops had vacated the terminal, but they could not be confirmed.

The rebels, bypassing the airport, were now heading towards the government's first corps, based in the north of the city, several sources said. "The mujahidin began attacking the first corps headquarters before day break," they said.

The Afghan Army's 81st Brigade, defending the city from the south, is also under mujahidin fire after nearby defence posts at Parkand and Lowgar-e fell to the rebels late Saturday, they said. Fighting was also heavy on Behsud bridge, which is considered the gateway to the city from the northwest, they said.

The rebels' latest offensive, which they say could be decisive in the battle of Jalalabad, also coincided with a major guerrilla attack on the airport of the southern city of Qandahar.

Thousands of government troops are based at the airport, from where they maintain control of Afghanistan's second biggest city. Radio Kabul monitored in Islamabad said the attack late Friday by some 2,500 rebels was the biggest attack on Qandahar since the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan in February. Analysts here said the attack on Qandahar could be a new tactic by the resistance to divert the Afghan Air Force, which has focussed on Jalalabad and has been playing a major role in impeding the guerrillas' advance.

Government forces have also been increasing pressure on guerrillas west of Jalalabad to open the highway linking Jalalabad with Kabul. The rebel-run AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) quoted rebel commander Muhammad Asif as saying the mujahidin had ambushed a big supply convoy on the highway Saturday. "In one of their biggest victories" on the highway the guerrillas set on fire about 150 government vehicles, including oil tankers, and killed dozens of troops, AIP said. First reports said dozens of vehicles were set ablaze.

The agency said initially the rebels allowed in the convoy at the rebel-held Barg-e Khaf region near Sarowbi District, half way from Kabul to Jalalabad. But the mujahidin then surprised the troops with heavy rocket and mortar attacks from the Towr Ghar mountains. "Several trucks plunged into Kabul River amid panic," the agency said.

Rebel sources said the latest attack on Jalalabad was launched after four abortive attempts to reopen the main overland route to the besieged city.

'Arab Adviser' Killed

LD2603153289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The country's heroic Armed Forces have inflicted crushing blows on the nation-seller extremists and Pakistan military backed by foreign advisers, who attacked Jalalabad's fringes. The blows have been so severe that they were not able to remove the corpses of the attackers. BIA's military section reports that 45 invaders' corpses have been recovered by the Armed Forces, which included the dead body of one Arab adviser. The documents and maps captured with the Arab adviser show that he was in charge of the mobilization and firing of long-range rockets, missiles and mortars on the city of Jalalabad. There is now full and irrefutable evidence and documents which prove that there were foreign advisers when Pakistan's Divisions 11 and 18 and the nation-seller extremists launched the recent attack on the city of Jalalabad.

Attacks on the escaping armed extremists and Pakistani military continued. Arms and ammunition and two surface-to-air rockets were captured yesterday in Jalalabad's surroundings by Ministry of State Security officers. BIA's military reports that the rockets are Blowpipes and were secretly deployed in Jalalabad's periphery by Yunis Khali's group to continue the war and fratricide.

Hikmatyar Injured in Jalalabad

BK2603160089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1549 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 26 (AFP)— An important mujahidin resistance leader who is also foreign minister of the interim government was slightly wounded in an Afghan Government bombing raid near Jalalabad, the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said Sunday. Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the leader of the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami guerrilla group, suffered minor wounds Saturday on his first visit to the battlefront since becoming foreign minister in the four-week-old mujahidin government, the pro-resistance news agency said.

Mr Hikmatyar was offering prayers in a mosque in the southern farm Hadda sector five kilometres from the beleaguered eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad when Afghan government planes launched a bombing raid. The bombs smashed windows and Mr Hikmatyar was slightly injured by flying glass splinters, ANA said. He survived another pre-dawn raid when planes carried out a second sortie near his hideout, the agency added. The report mentioned no other casualties in the raids. [passage omitted]

ANA said the mujahidin have captured two small posts west of the Jalalabad airport but withdrew because of heavy bombing. It said the mujahidin entered the city's western Chahar Bagh area after two days of heavy fighting.

Mr Hikmatyar, who addressed a meeting of the local commanders, has advised the mujahidin to be "very cautious" in their attacks to avoid civilian losses. ANA said he also asked the rebels to provide "full protection" to the surrendering troops as part of the resistance's amnesty for defectors. Mujahidin commander Munir, who was commanding guerrillas in the south, said the ruling communist party cadres were not allowing the soldiers to flee. He quoted a group of 16 soldiers who had surrendered in the strategically important Parkand military post as saying that both soldiers and residents wanted to flee the fighting but government agents had kept them as hostages.

348 Rebels Killed in Jalalabad

LD2603174189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The joint forces of Pakistan and the groups linked to it intensified their rocket and other heavy weapons raids on the city of Jalalabad and its suburbs yesterday. An authoritative source in the Republic of Afghanistan's Armed Forces reported to BAKHTAR's military section that the Pakistani Army's artillery force, with armed extremists connected to that country's military intelligence, fired 12,000 rockets and shells on residential areas of the city and on the defensive lines of the Republic of Afghanistan's heroic Armed Forces. As a result 12 residents were martyred and 39 were wounded. Most of the martyrs were women, children and other civilians. As many as 12 houses, a mosque, and a school were destroyed. Three Armed Forces soldiers were martyred and 26 were wounded.

Yesterday, joint Pakistan-connected armed extremists, using armored vehicles, launched an extensive attack from the directions of Chaparhar, Karez-e Kabir, and Sorkh Rud. Enemy units were mobilized and commanded by 110 Pakistani commanders and Saudi advisers. The enemy attack was halted as a result of coordinated raids by the Afghan Air Force and artillery, and as a result of crushing blows by Jalalabad [word indsitinct] outlying posts. The enemy, having suffered heavy losses, was forced to retreat.

As a result of our heroic Armed Forces strikes, 348 of the enemy were killed and 169 others were wounded. Three enemy arms and ammunition depots, 47 rocket launchers, 18 mortars, 6 rocket launchers, 2 BM-1 rocket launchers, 2 tanks, and a convoy of 16 vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed.

According to another report, mopping-up operations and activities by the Armed Forces in Qandahar Province continued after the invading army failed in its 24 March attack on Tarin Kowt and its airport. As a result, 370 surface- to-surface rockets, 70 recoilless gun shells and tens of thousands of various ammunition were captured by Afghan Army.

The enemy fired heavy weapons on Paktia and Herat provinces. No loss of life occured.

As a result of the Armed Forces return fire in Farayb Province seven warmongers, including a ringleader, were killed, and a number of others were seriously injured.

BAKHTAR's military section adds that severe clashes, caused by differences among the extremist groups, took place recently in the districts of Owbeh, Gozareh, and Pashtun Zarghun in Herat. In clashes that occurred between hostile groups of Gulbuddin and Rabbani, 31 people were killed on the two sides and 16 others were seriously wounded.

Captive Pilot Says Kabul Troop Morale 'Higher'

BK2403114489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1137 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, March 24 (AFP)—An Afghan pilot captured by the mujahidin said here Friday that the morale of government troops had improved since the departure of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in February.

"Afghan soldiers did not like to take orders from Soviets and there was a lot of confusion. But now they (Afghan Army) are independent and their morale is higher than before," said Brigadier 'Abdul Halim, who was captured March 1 when his Su-7 jet fighter was shot down near Shindand Air Base in southwestern Farah Province. Mr. Halim, 35, was then tranfered to Pakistan to a command post of the Jamiyat-e Eslami near here.

"I was flying at an altitude of 2,000 metres (yards) with five other Su-7s and we were bombing the mujahidin positions near Shindand when my plane was hit by a Stinger missile. I managed to bail out but was captured by the mujahidin," Mr. Halim said.

The Afghan pilot said he was paid 350 afghanis (about two U.S. dollars) for each operational flight, adding that he used to make between 10 and 15 sorties a month. He said a squadron of Su-7 and Su-22 jet planes and Mi-25 and Mi-8 gunship helicopters were at the Shindand Air Base, one of the biggest in Afghanistan. A large quantity of ammunition was also dumped there by the Soviets before their withdrawal in February, he added.

Some Jamiyat-e Eslami commanders, led by fundamentalist Burhanuddin Rabbani, said they might swap the Afghan pilot for the mujahidin captured by the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul, although other commanders said they wanted Mr. Halim to be executed. Mr. Halim, who has a wife and a son in Shindand, said he joined the Communist Party ten years ago. "I was a military official therefore I had no choice but to join. I feel sorry now."

Wolasi Jerga Appeals to Pakistan for Peace

LD2603212689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Message from Wolasi Jerga to Pakistan's National Assembly; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassinate, the merciful. Your Excellencies, members of the National Assembly of Pakistan: In view of the very subtle nature of the situation in our region, and with your responsibilities, particularly in relations between our countries, we consider it necessary to approach you through this message. Unfortunately Afghan-Pakistani relations have always contained difficulties and obstacles, especially when democracy was ruthlessly repressed in Pakistan. At the same time, interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by the Pakistani ruling circles of the time started, and these relations verged on a dangerous conflict, which advanced against the interests of the people of both countries, and peace and security in the region.

The signing of the Geneva accords and the introduction of democracy in our countries brings about extraordinary opportunitys for the establishment of relations between our two countries in the interest of peaceful coexistance, and in the interest of peace and security between the people of the two countries and the region on the basis of accepted norms of good neighborliness. The Republic of Afghanistan fulfilled its commitments in the Geneva accords and the Soviet forces returned at the determined time.

Unfortunately, not only has the other party to the agreement not fulfilled its commitment but facts attest that interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan has reached a qualitatively new level. It may lead to unexpected consequences. Certainly you are aware of the situation along the border. Not only have the training centers and logistic supply and combat headquarters of the anti-Afghan government seven-party alliance not been removed from the soil of Pakistan, but also Pakistani armed forces have been unprecedentedly concentrated along the border of the two countries.

The seven-party shura was convened by Pakistani military intelligence in Rawalpindi, and a government to be exported to Afghanistan was formed. On 6 March a large extremist offensive was started with the direct support of Divisions 11 and 18 of the Pakistani Armed Forces. The plan was that the city of Jalalabad would be seized in 2 days and the government made by Pakistan's military intelligence would be seated in the city. You are aware of what happened there. This act faced a shameful defeat and a great loss of life.

Surely not only are the continuation of such acts against the provision of the Geneva agreements and the interest of the people of the two countries. They are also considered an obstacle to the solution of great socioeconomic

problems and to the constructive moves for consolidating the situation in the interest of democracy. It could also develop in a direction whereby the control of reason and wisdom would become impossible.

Therefore, with a feeling of responsibility for the fate of the people of Afghanistan, we hope that, taking into account the past experiences which have not benefitted any side, you pay due attention to fulfilling the commitments undertaken by Pakistan within the Geneva accords, in the interest of peace and security in the region, in the interest of Pakistani-Afghan relations, and with the confidence that the people of Pakistan, like the people of Afghanistan, want peace and good neighborliness.

Your Excellencies have a responsibility in this regard, as do we. You can survey the situation along the borders of the two countries. And you can put an end to the adventurist and warmongering activities of the societies which act in contravention of Pakistani interests.

We are sure your honorable efforts will open new ways in relations between the two countries. The Wolasi Jerga of the Meli Shura of Afghanistan is ready to make joint efforts toward solving the problems which exist in this respect. We wish success from God in your efforts for peace and friendship between the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

United Nations Resumes Food Supplies to Kabul

BK2603152689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1514 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 26 (AFP)—The United Nations resumed distribution of food to impoverished people in the Afghan capital for the first time Sunday since a U.N. emergency airlift was halted by political problems in mid-February. But authorities said only 10,000 to 12,000 women and young children out of an estimated 30,000 of the city's most needy were able to benefit from the handout.

The bulk of the supplies distributed Sunday, which included sugar and wheat, had come from the 600 million U.S. dollar Soviet contribution to the United Nations fund for Afghanistan, said program coordinator Leon de Riedmatten in Kabul.

He said the supplies had come down the Salang highway from the Russian border when the road was opened after the Soviet troop withdrawal February 15. The food, in 10 kilogram plastic bags containing flour, sugar and milk powder, was distributed to children under four years of age, nursing mothers, mental patients and lepers on Sunday morning at clinics in the city's outer suburbs. Most stood in a steady rain awaiting the arrival of the trucks, rushing forward with U.N. identity cards when they arrived.

A sole plane load out of a planned airlift of thousands of tonnes of food reached Kabul mid-February immediately after the Soviet troop pullout. Subsequent flights, stalled by politics and hefty insurance rates needed to fly into the rocket-plagued capital, never got off the ground.

The only food reaching Kabul since then has been by road, some by convoy from the Soviet Union and the rest from Pakistan. However the latter is sold on the open market at exorbitant prices beyond the reach of the poor.

Protest Notes 346-348 Delivered to UNGOMAP

LD2603195889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Details of Pakistan's blatant violations of the Geneva accords were today handed to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] in Kabul in three notes. In note No 346, the Foreign Ministry detailed information concerning the (Spin Dana) and (Kamam Daka) military training camps, both which are on Pakistani territory and in which Afghan extremists are given military training before being sent to Afghanistan to carry out subversive activities.

In note No 347, the attention of the UNGOMAP was drawn to another blatant violation by Pakistan of the Geneva accords, the supply of Blowpipe missiles to the extremist groups. The note states that, utilizing these surface-to-air missiles, the extremists have attacked transportation aircraft. Note No 348 details the direct involvement of the Pakistani authorities with the extremists in Nangarhar Province against anti-Afghan activities. The UNGOMAP has been asked to assess the violations mentioned in the notes and to inform the parties concerned of the results of his findings.

According to another report, the UNGOMAP team in Kabul saw regions where weapons and ammunition belonging to the extremists had been discovered in Kabul city wards eight and nine.

Tanay, Delawar Visit Nangahar Province Troops

LD2503180189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Yesterday and today, Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, inspected the units and subunits of 11 divisions and units of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province.

The military section of BIA reports that the defense minister, accompanied by Major General Muhammad Asef Delawar, chief of General Staff of the Republic of Afghanistan, inspected the mobilization and administration points of various units and subunits, and gave necessary instructions to the combat commanders regarding their duties.

The commanders asked the defense minister to pass their assurance to esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed

Forces, that the personnel of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province, members of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] Central Committee and the brave inhabitants of the province are giving a decisive reply to the invaders. They will defend with courage each inch of the country, defend to the end their positions against the Pakistan invaders and extremists protected by Pakistan, and continue to impose losses on the enemy, similar to those inflicted on them during the past 18 days.

According to another report the defense minister visited wounded men in No 1 hospital. He received injuries during the repulse of attacks by the Pakistani invaders and extremists.

Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, yesterday met supply convoys which reached Jalalabad city via the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. He gave necessary instructions to the officials regarding the improvement of the transportation situation and assistance to Jalalabad's citizens.

Non-Combat Protocol Signed for Kabul-Parvan Road
LD2503194189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] A protocol to refrain from attacking state and private supply convoys traveling along the Kabul-Parvan highway was signed today with the elders of the villages of (Saleh Kheyl), Baza'i, Jangi Kheyl, (Akhond Kheyl), Saffar Kalay, and Siah Sang in the district of Shakar Darreh, Kabol Province. Fazl Ahmad Toghian, Kabul governor, and a number of elders and representatives of the villages and of the opposition groups in Shakar Darreh were present while the protocol was being signed at Kabul provincial headquarters.

In line with the protocol which was signed as a result of the fruitful contacts between the elders of the district and the armed opposition, opposition operations will cease as of tomorrow, 26 March, in the area between Gol Darreh and Siah Sang, along the Kabul-Parvan highway. And Armed Forces units will also refrain from combat operations in the area. It is noted in the protocol that if state and private vehicles are damaged the security forces will resume combat operations in the area. Similarly, materials such as flour, sugar, fuel, and chemical fertilizer, needed by the people of Shakar Darreh, will be provided by the state for cash.

Najibullah Promotes Colonel to Brigadier General
LD2403205689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] In accordance with a decree issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, Colonel 'Ali Muhammad, son of 'Abdul Qodus, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in appreciation of his worthy services for the defense of the country.

Hikmatyar Rejects 'Peaceful Solution' With Kabul
JN2703080089 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 25 Mar 89 pp 23, 24

[Text] In statements to newsmen while in the Saudi capital to attend the Islamic foreign ministers' conference, Eng Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, foreign minister of the Afghan mujahidin provisional government and leader of the radical Islamic Party, seemed very confident that the mujahidin would soon score a final victory in their battle against Najibullah's government in Kabul. Therefore, his stands appeared somewhat adamant: no mediations toward a peaceful solution that secures any sort of political representation for Najibullah's government, no negotiations, and no meeting with the Soviets. The only solution is that Najibullah and his army should surrender and the Soviets should pay compensation for their interference, or rather occupation of Afghanistan.

These words indicate that Eng Hikmatyar rejects the proposals put forward by Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to resolve the Afghan question, but until when? Until he triumphs militarily or until diplomacy acts before him. It is an ongoing race and it seems that the result of the current war around Jalalabad will pinpoint many things.

AL-MUSTAQBAL met with Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, who spoke in the language of militarists.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: We have learned that there were contacts between you and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. What were the contents of these contacts, especially since there are reports about mediation by Abu 'Ammar?

Hikmatyar: I telephoned 'Arafat Wednesday night to ask if the Palestinian delegation to the Islamic foreign ministers' conference would not object to a proposal to give Afghanistan's seat at the Islamic Conference Organization to our government.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: But the Palestinian delegation objected to the proposal.

Hikmatyar: It was reported that certain circumstances made them take an opposing stand. What is important for us is that we are now occupying Afghanistan's seat.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: It was reported that Yasir 'Arafat has certain ideas to resolve your problem with the Kabul government and that he is holding contacts for this purpose.

Hikmatyar: 'Arafat's contacts are personal. Our stand is that it is impossible for us to meet with Najibullah's government or accept its presence in any future government because Najibullah's hireling government and regime have committed crimes against our people and we will not accept their presence.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: But what will the destiny of the Kabul regime be? You are pushing them to fight until death.

Hikmatyar: Once the war is over and the mujahidin government tightens its control over the situation, we will adopt a policy based on general amnesty for those who stood at the side of the aggressors and fought against our people. We will do so in accordance with the principles of our true religion and the methods of our prophet.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Are you certain that you can topple the Kabul regime? For weeks, you have been saying you will liberate Kabul and until now you have done nothing.

Hikmatyar: We can find a military solution to the issue. However, we prefer a political solution so as to avoid more destruction and killing of civilians. I would like to affirm that Najibullah's government cannot remain steadfast more than a few weeks and Kabul will fall within the coming weeks. This is certain and we have large numbers of mujahidin besieging the capital. We control 95 percent of Afghan territory as well as 60 major cities. We are besieging some of the other cities and are in control of all transportation routes and important supply lines in Afghanistan. What is left is the downfall of Najibullah's regime, which is now facing an impasse.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: But your rigid stands will make him fight fiercly to defend his regime.

Hikmatyar: The recognition of our government will help to end the war in Afghanistan and will expedite the downfall of Najibullah's government without fighting. For this, we call for recognizing the mujahidin government. Our victory is certain within 5 months. This is because the agreement to form the provisional government gives a 5-month respite to conduct parliamentary elections to form a broad-base government.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: In that case, why did you hasten to form the present government?

Hikmatyar: First, I would like to affirm that the shura represents all the Afghan people and this council elected the government. We formed the government so that no political vacuum will result in the wake of the downfall of Najibullah's government. The present provisional government will replace Najibullah's government, not the organizations and parties. When Kabul is liberated, another broad-base government will be formed to prepare for parliamentary elections within months. All parties and organizations will take part in these elections.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: You affirmed that Kabul will fall within weeks. You said Jalalabad would fall within days but the mujahidin have been fighting for 2 weeks in Jalalabad without being able to control it. Do you not think your battle will be difficult and bitter?

Hikmatyar: We were told this before our victory over the Soviets and before we forced them to withdraw from our country. Before we agreed to form the provisional government, they told us that we would not be able to agree on forming the government. The Jalalabad battle will end within days and the mujahidin are progressing step by step to control it.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Why do you not give an opportunity for a peaceful solution and why do you not negotiate with the Soviets to end the battle and to take over the political situation there?

Hikmatyar: We stopped the negotiations with the Soviets before their withdrawal because they insist on forming a coalition government and on keeping Najibullah. There is nothing to discuss with the Soviets now. We support any peaceful solution provided there is no presence for Najibullah's government.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Do you not fear that your stands will push the Soviets to intervene indirectly to protect the Kabul government.

Hikmatyar: I do not believe the Soviets will repeat their mistake to interfere once again.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: How will your future relationship with the Soviet Union be if you are rejecting any dialogue with it?

Hikmatyar: If Moscow stops protecting Najibullah's regime and refrains from sending weapons and military hardware to it, if it pledges not to attack our borders, and if it respects our independence and sovereignty over our territory and expresses its readiness to compensate us for the losses inflicted by its aggression on our country, then we have no objection to establishing good neighborly relations with it on the basis of these concepts.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: You say that your government represents all the Afghan people, but there are eight mujahidin organizations in Iran which are not represented in the government.

Hikmatyar: We have repeatedly said that this is an internal issue because the other eight organizations agree to the current government, and the difference is only on the ministerial portfolios. They want seven portfolios and we are proposing to them only four. In any case, during my recent visit to Tehran we agreed that they send their envoys for negotiations on this matter. They do not have any reservations over our government or its representation of the Afghan people.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Why then has Iran not yet recognized you?

Hikmatyar: Iran is waiting for our final agreement with the eight organizations, but it has no reservations about or objection to our government.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: And Pakistan has not yet recognized you although it is your primary supporter.

Hikmatyar: There is no doubt that Pakistan has helped us and received our refugees. I hope it will soon recognize us. However, it seems that they are coordinating with Iran and we are certain that they will soon recognize our government. Now that the Islamic Conference Organization has recognized us as sole legitimate representative of Afghanistan, we hope that all the Islamic states will recognize the provisional Afghan government. I do not see any reason why they should not do so.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Washington said through its official spokesman that it wanted to recover the U.S. anti-aircraft Stinger missiles from the Afghan mujahidin either by buying them or replacing them with other weapons because you no longer need them and lest they should fall into the hands of terrorist organizations.

Hikmatyar: They say we triumphed because of the sophisticated weapons supplied to us by the United States. We triumphed by our faith, resolve, and reliance on God. Sophisticated weapons do not make victory. Otherwise, the Soviets would have triumphed over us. Now the United States agrees with the Soviet Union. Therefore, it wants this to be at our expense, and the U.S. weapon plants, particularly the missile plant about which you are talking, want to market their products.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What is important is whether you will return the Stinger missiles to the United States.

Hikmatyar: You must address this question to the one who received the Stinger missiles from the Americans. As for us, we have not received any American weapons from the United States.

Hikmatyar on Soviet Relations, Saudi Recognition
JN2603131689 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 24 Mar 89 p 1

[By Muhammad al-Duhaym in Riyadh]

[Text] Eng Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, foreign minister in the Afghan mujahidin provisional government, praised the stand of the government of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. He said in a statement to AL-YAWM that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had supported the mujahidin since they started their struggle. In his statement, Hikmatyar called on the Islamic countries to recognize the mujahidin government, pointing out that the kingdom's recognition of this government had given the mujahidin strong motivation and support for them to occupy the seat of Afghanistan at the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers' meetings.

On the future of relations with the Soviet Union he said: Our relationship with the Soviet Union depends on the Soviet Union's stand toward Afghanistan after the war and the compensation it will pay to us for the damage and losses it caused inside Afghan territory.

On the estimate of this compensation he said: It will become clear after we form a committee to estimate these losses.

On the government's stand toward Najibullah and his aides, he said: We have declared a total amnesty for Najibullah and all those who were cooperating with the Soviet Union against the mujahidin if they surrender and discard their weapons. We do this to avoid Afghan bloodshed.

Concluding his statement, he said that Afghanistan, after God enables the mujahidin to control it fully, will witness general elections in which the Afghan refugees in the camps and the Afghan people other than the communists will take part.

Sayyaf on Interim Government Status, Jalalabad
BK2603062089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The interim Afghan Government's prime minister, 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, has expressed the hope that a number of countries will soon recognize the interim government. In an interview he said: We have requested our friends only to extend their concrete political support to us and accept the ideal of Islam. In reply to a question on the latest fighting situation in Jalalabad and the prospects of mujahidin success in the prolonged war, Sayyaf said the mujahidin have some very important strategies concerning Jalalabad, adding that he cannot say anything about them until their implementation begins.

Bangladesh

Concern Over Dumping of U.S. 'Nuclear Waste'
BK2403123089 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 17 Mar 89 pp 1, 7

[Text] Mrs Khaleda Zia, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] and leader of the Seven-Party Alliance, has expressed grave concern over the report that U.S. ships have secretly dumped very dangerous nuclear waste inside the territorial limits of Bangladesh and called upon everyone, including humanitarian and environmental scientists, social workers, intellectuals and politicians, to raise their voices against it.

In a statement she said that an American weekly has published a report quoting two American professors of environmental concerns. She said the government has remained mysteriously silent on it despite reports published on various occasions in Bangladesh newspapers about the entry of such American ships into the territorial waters of Bangladesh and warnings given by some circles from time to time .

Mrs Khaleda Zia has demanded an unambiguous explanation from the government on this issue.

Soviet Delegation Discusses Trade, Mining

BK2603132389 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Bangladesh and the Soviet Union have agreed to study on technical aspects of mining limestone at the Jaipurhat Limestone and Cement Project. The agreement was reached during a meeting between Energy Minister A.B.M. Ghulam Mustafa, and the visiting Soviet trade delegation in Dhaka on Saturday. The study will begin next month with Soviet assistance.

The Soviet delegation also met Commerce Minister M.A. Sattar. They discussed ways of improving bilateral trade relations between the two countries.

Saudi Military Delegation Begins Visit

BK2503013489 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] The commander of the land forces of Saudi Arabia, Lieutenant General Yusuf 'Abd al-Rahman al-Rashid, has arrived in Dhaka on a week-long goodwill visit to Bangladesh. General Yusuf and five other members of the delegation were received at the airport by the chief of Army staff, Lieutenant General M. Atiqur Rahman. An ISPR [Inter-Service Public Relations] press release says the Saudi delegation will visit different training institutions and military installations in Dhaka, Jessore, and Sylhet.

President Ershad Returns From Paris 25 Mar

BK2503155889 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Excerpt] President Ershad returned to Dhaka after a 3-day successful state visit to France. He was received at the airport by Vice President Nurul Islam. Those who present at the airport were Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, ministers, chiefs of three services, diplomats and high civil and military officials. [passage omitted]

Government Orders Release of 619 Prisoners

BK2403160889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1600 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Dhaka, March 24 (AFP)—The Government of President Ershad has ordered the release of 619 prisoners from different jails on the eve of Bangladesh's 18th Independence Day, the state-owned television said Friday.

It said beneficiaries of Sunday's Independence Day include 318 prisoners who were detained without trial under the 1974 Special Powers Act.

Bangladesh, formerly east Pakistan, was declared independent on March 26, 1971 at the start of a nine-month old armed liberation war that culminated with the dismemberment of Pakistan and emergence of a sovereign state later that year on December 16.

Awami League Refuses To Participate in Elections

BK2503102189 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Mar 89 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday [7 March] categorically said that her party would not participate in any election keeping President Ershad in power.

Addressing a big public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue on the occasion of historic March 7, Sheikh Hasina said that the Bangladesh Awami League would continue the movement till the fall of the present regime. In this context, the Awami League chief called upon all the progressive and democratic forces to forge a strong unity aimed at unseating the present Government. She also asked the freedom fighters and the youth forces to join the movement.

She told the rally that the Awami League would observe March 24 as black day.

Reiterating the call for the realisation of her party's 7-point demand Sheikh Hasina said that the 7-point demand incorporates the economic and political emancipation of the people of Bangladesh.

She said that the 7-point demand also incorporated the demand for restoration of 1972 Constitution and the establishment of parliamentary democracy in the country. The implemention of the 7-point demand would bring an end to the politics of killings, violence and coups in the country, she asserted.

She said that the Awami League believed in the strong national economy with the existence of both public and private ownerships. She said that if voted to power her party would waive land tax up to 25 bighas [measurement of land] and reduce the other tax burden of the people.

Sheikh Hasina alleged that the present Government was ruling the country undemocratically. She said that Bangladesh Awami League would change the Government through movement and restore the people's rights to food and shelter.

Sheikh Hashina said that the time had come to wage struggle against the present regime. [passage omitted]

Khaleda Zia Calls for Opposition Unity

BK2503103389 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Mar 89 pp 1, 10

[Excerpt] Begum Khaleda Zia, chief of BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] and leader of the Seven-Party Alliance on Wednesday [8 March] renewed her pledge to restore multi-party democracy and independence of judiciary in the country. We are bent upon repealing the Special Powers Act, the Press and Publications Act and all other black laws aiming at establishment of unfettered fundamental rights, she added. [sentence as published]

Inaugurating the two-day national council session of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, at the Institution of Engineers, she made an appeal to all the political parties, alliances and professionals to unite forgetting all past misgivings to achieve the desired goal of establishment of representative government in the country. If we deviate from the fundamental objective of establishment of democracy, the nation will not forgive us, she said.

The BNP chief said, "we believe in peace in the industries and free trade union activities in order to ensure stability in national production."

The BNP chief reiterated her demand for one-point movement to force the present Government quit for holding free and fair polls under a neutral government. Anybody trying to divert the people's attention from the one point, will have to bear the responsibility of betraying the cause of the people, she said.

Begum Zia called upon all the patriotic, democratic and nationalist forces to unite in a common platform to realise the common objective of removing the present government on the basis of one point programme. [passage omitted]

India

Supplies to Afghan Civilians Reach Kabul

BK2403155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] The first planeload of Indian relief supplies for the civilians of Afghanistan has landed in Kabul. The supplies include medicines and food.

Nepalese Foreign Minister Arrives 26 Mar

BK2603130989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, arrived in New Delhi today for talks on issues relating to trade and transit. He is accompanied by senior officials including the foreign and commerce secretaries of Nepal. The delegation was received by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh. Mr Upadhyaya and Mr Rao are to hold discussions this evening.

The Indian-Nepal treaty on trade and transit expired on Thursday last [23 March] following no response from Kathmandu to India's call for reopening negotiations. With this Nepal has ceased to enjoy certain special concessions and privileges.

To Begin Trade, Transit Talks

BK2603160789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] India and Nepal have agreed to start negotiations as soon as possible to arrive at new arrangements on trade and transit between the two countries. The negotiations will be at the level of technical ministries concerned. The decision was taken at a meeting in New Delhi this evening between the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya.

Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said that the concerned ministries will be asked to expedite action along these lines. He, however, said that no time limit has been set for negotiations. Both Mr Rao and Mr Upadhyaya recalled the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation that have always existed between India and Nepal. The Nepalese side included the foreign and commerce secretaries of that government and the Indian side the foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh.

The spokesman clarified that the present round of talks are at the initiative of the Nepalese Government and there is no shift in India's stand on the matter. Replying to a question, he said the question of extension of the India-Nepalese on trade and transit does not arise as it lapsed last Thursday [23 March]. The 15 transit points allowed to Nepal earlier now stands reduced to two and the country has been given the most favored nation status as it is normally done in other cases. However, Nepal's trade transit to Bhutan and Bangladesh through India will continue to be allowed.

The Nepalese foreign minister will leave for his country tomorrow morning.

Expresses 'Dissatisfaction'

BK2703070289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] New Delhi, March 27 (AFP)—Nepal's foreign minister ended a day's visit here Monday expressing dissatisfaction at India's refusal to agree to interim trade and transit arrangements to replace treaties that expired last week.

"I can't say we are satisfied," Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency before leaving for home.

"One of the purposes of my visit was... while negotiating a new arrangement between two friendly countries, to have the earlier trade regime continue till a new treaty is signed," he added. "But we found that India is not ready to have any interim regime except what it has enforced after expiry of the two treaties."

Indo-Nepalese trade and transit treaties expired a year ago but were extended twice. The last extension expired Thursday and India has since refused to allow goods to cross the border at most access points.

India has rejected a Nepalese proposal that the expired trade and transit treaties be extended again pending negotiations on a new accord.

But Mr. Upadhyaya said that during talks with his Indian counterpart P.V. Narasimha Rao Sunday the two sides had agreed to start immediate talks to forge new pacts.

Mr. Upadhyaya said he had submitted to India proposals on fresh trade and transit arrangements, but refused to give any details.

The two issues were governed by a single treaty until separate agreements on trade and transit were reached in 1978.

India wants to return to the pre-1978 system of a single treaty but Nepal has rejected this.

The transit treaty had given Nepal access to 15 entry points across the 1,000-kilometre (600-mile) open border in addition to transit facilities from Bhutan and Bangladesh. Access to all but two of the 15 entry points has been closed since Friday.

Mr. Upadhyaya told PTI that Indian officials were even blocking consignments which had been sent from Calcutta to the access points before the treaties had expired. He said he had complained to Mr. Narasimha Rao and was assured that the complaint would be investigated.

Nepalese Ambassador Binda Shah said the Royal Nepal Airlines had also been prevented from taking cargo to Nepal coming from third countries.

India has said it would stop supplying Nepal from March 31 with cooking oil, rock salt, and refined petroleum products, which triggered panic-buying in Kathmandu.

The trade agreement had provided that no customs duties and quantitative restrictions would be levied on Nepalese goods with 80 per cent indigenous content and products manufactured with Indian collaboration.

India and Nepal are bound by a 1950 friendship treaty which provided for freedom of travel, ownership of property, trade and employment opportunities to each other's citizens.

Relations have soured since Nepal in 1987 introduced work permits for the estimated 150,000 Indians in the Himalayan Kingdom and in the following year bought a large quantity of arms from China, with which India fought a war in 1962.

4,000 Arrested Trying To Cross Bangladesh Border

BK2603031389 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] More than 4,000 persons were arrested yesterday at Haridaspur in West Bengal near India-Bangladesh border. A police spokesman said in Calcutta that the arrests were made following repeated moves by some organizations to cross the border. The spokesman said the Border Security Force and state police have been alerted to keep a vigil all along the India-Bangladesh border.

Parliament To Debate Thakkar Commission Report

BK2503074289 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has reaffirmed that the Thakkar Commission report [on assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi] will be tabled in Parliament on Monday [27 March]. He was talking to newsmen informally after a civil investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] today.

Replying to queries, he asserted there is no question of tampering, altering, modifying, or touching up the report in any way. The report will be tabled as it is.

Asked if it will be discussed, the prime minister said every report that is placed in Parliament is discussed if members desire. When his attention was drawn to certain doubts expressed by opposition leaders, the prime minister said the opposition does not believe in the truth. Once the report is presented, the truth will be out.

Tamil Nadu Assembly Members Suspended 1 Month

BK2503085489 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, 28 members belonging to the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam [AIADMK], including the opposition leader, Miss Jayalalitha, have been suspended from the state assembly till the end of this month. This followed unruly scenes and violent incidents that rocked the assembly proceedings today. The Congress-I members staged a walk out saying that there is no safety for the members in the house.

Earlier, when the house assembled this morning, the Congress-I deputy leader, Mr Kumari Anandan, and leader of the opposition, Miss Jayalalitha, stated that they have submitted a privilege motion against the chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, for what they called making false cases against opposition members. The speaker, Dr Tamilkudimakan, pointed out that this matter would be considered by him on Monday, since today was scheduled for the budget alone. Immediately he called upon the chief minister to present the budget.

When Mr Karunanidhi was about to read his budget speech, the AIADMK members rushed to the well of the house stating that the privilege motion should be discussed before the budget is presented. Immediately both the Dravida Munnetra Kazagam [DMK] and the AIADMK members started attacking each other. Missiles were thrown about and tables and mikes were damaged. The rural industry minister, Mr (Veerapandi Arangam) was seen pleading, while Miss Jayalalitha left the house abruptly. The speaker adjourned the house and reconvened the assembly later.

The budget was then presented by the chief minister. Later a resolution suspending 28 AIADMK members present in the house was passed by a voice vote. The CPI members opposed the resolution. Talking to newsmen later, the chief minister said that the AIADMK members

had attacked him at the instigation of Miss Jayalalitha. The Congress-I deputy leader, Mr Kumari Anandan, told newsmen that their leader, Mr G.K. Moopanar, was attacked by the ruling DMK members for supporting the privilege motion.

Fresh taxes to fetch 50 crore rupees have been proposed in the Tamil Nadu budget for 1989-90. It shows a net deficit of 64.77 crore rupees.

Army on Alert in Assam Over New Strike Call

BK2703035689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The Army has been alerted to assist the civil administration in Assam to maintain law and order. This follows the 10-day bundh [strike] call given by a group of All Bodo [tribal] Students Union from tomorrow. The security measures in the trouble-hit Kokrajhar District and Udalgiri subdivision have been stepped up. The Northeast Frontier Railway will not run any passenger trains on Srirampur-Guwahati and Guwahati-Rangapara North section as a precautionary measure during the bundh.

The union minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, has assured all central help while reviewing the latest situation in the state at Guwahati recently. The union minister also visited Sonahat in Dhubri sector of the international border to review the progress of the fencing. Mr Chidambaram said that funds will not be a problem for construction of the fence along the India-Bangladesh border. The construction of a barbed-wire fencing was recently inaugurated by the Assam chief minister, Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta.

Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab State

'Terrorists' Kill 9 in Amritsar

BK2503030089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down nine persons, including seven members of a family, and two members of a rival gang of terrorists in separate incidents last night. In Amritsar District, terrorists struck in a house in village Katara Kalan and shot dead the house lady, her two sons, three daughters and a daughter in law.

In Gurdaspur District, terrorists shot dead two brothers in village Dhariwal Kalan near Khadian. Police suspects this to be a case of inter-gang rivalry.

3 'Terrorists' Killed

BK2503155489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] In Punjab, three hardcore terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Hoshiarpur District early this morning. According to an official spokesman five terrorists, when signaled to stop at Badoal Road, opened fire at security forces. Three of them were killed, while the other two managed to escape.

Elsewhere in the state, terrorists shot dead a police constable at a rural sports meet in Faridkot District this afternoon.

In a powerful bomb blast in Amritsar, 1 person was killed and 16 injured this afternoon. The bomb was planted on a cycle parked outside a shop.

Iran

Khomeyni Attends Meeting on Future Leadership

LD2703104289 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 27, IRNA—The future leadership of the Islamic Republic was discussed in a meeting Sunday night between Imam Khomeyni and the members of the Secretariat of the Council of Experts.

The meeting lasted for an hour.

The nearly 80-member all-'ulema council is chaired by Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini with Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as first deputy. Other members of the secretariat are Ayatollahs Ebrahim Amini, Mohammad Mo'men Qomi, and Taheri Khorramabadi.

The Council of Experts has been designated by the Constitution to decide on the future leader or a council of leadership after the demise of Imam Khomeyni.

Article 107 of the Constitution states whenever a qualified jurisprudent is recognized by a decisive majority of the people, he will assume the post of leadership.

Otherwise the Council of Experts with consult among themselves and pick one outstanding person as leader or select a leadership council of three or five jurisprudents.

Navy Seizes Yacht of Gulf 'Ruling Family'

LD2603213889 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1224 GMT 26 Mar 89

[By Chris Moncrieff, PRESS ASSOCIATION chief political correspondent]

[Text] The Foreign Office was today investigating a report that the Iranian Navy has intercepted a yacht in the Gulf and had detained its occupants which included four Britons and five members of a Gulf ruling family. But a spokesman said in London that the Foreign Office at present had no knowledge of the incident.

ASSOCIATED PRESS quote a Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' as saying that the 25-metre blue-and-white yacht was intercepted while sailing from Bahrain to Kuwait and was escorted to an Iranian island, believed to be Farsi. This island is in the Gulf midway between Bahrain and Kuwait.

The newspaper says it had the names of the prominent people aboard the yacht but had refrained from publishing them "to avoid affecting the secret contacts going on with Iran at the highest level to end the incident".

The last message received from the yacht was at 4 PM on Thursday, six hours after it had sailed from Bahrain, the paper said.

Further on Yacht Seizure

NC2703121289 Paris AFP in English 1124 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Manama, March 27 (AFP)—The mystery deepened Monday around the reported seizure by the Iranian Navy of a yacht with British air hostesses and members of a Gulf royal family on board.

Kuwaiti and Bahraini authorities denied a report Sunday in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' that the Iranian Navy had intercepted the yacht last Thursday as it travelled through Gulf waters from here to Kuwait.

But a Foreign Office spokesman in London, without dismissing the report, said it was being investigated.

A Bahrain Marina Club official meanwhile told British television that he had picked up a distress call from a yacht called the "Faylakan" six hours after it left port Thursday. "I heard the words, 'my ship is burning' or 'on fire.' But it could have been 'under fire,'" George Colvino told the independent channel ITN. "I tried several times to contact it but there was no reply."

British residents in the Gulf, cited by the DAILY MIRROR newspaper in London, identified the British passengers on the boat as four air hostesses working for the Gulf Air company. A Western diplomatic source in the Gulf has also identified the four Britons as "young women."

AL-ANBA', which was the first to break the story, has said the Britons were accompanied by five members of an unnamed Gulf Arab ruling family on board the 25-meter (80-foot) yacht. But another Kuwaiti newspaper, AL-SIYASAH, reported that the vessel—named after the Kuwaiti island of Faylakah—belonged to a son of prominent Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi.

A son of the assassinated Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat was among 12 passengers on board, the paper said, referring to unconfirmed reports circulating in the Gulf.

Amid a host of unsubstantiated reports, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper—also published in Kuwait—said the yacht affair was probably a hoax fabricated by an amateur radio buff to embarass the Kuwaiti and Bahraini authorities.

But AL-AYYAM daily, appearing here, quoted reliable sources as reporting that the "Faylakah" had sent out a distress signal, saying it was being intercepted by Iranian gunboats.

In London, the Foreign Office spokesman said the British Embassies in Kuwait and Bahrain had "no information that any such incident took place" and there were no reports of missing British nationals.

TODAY newspaper said the passengers—including a former British officer with a senior post in Bahraini intelligence—were being held hostage on the northern Gulf island of Farsi, a base for Iranian Revolutionary Guards during the Iran-Iraq war.

The boat itself had caught fire during a "gun battle," the paper reported.

There was no comment from Iran on the reports, which if confirmed could further damage relations between Tehran and London. The two countries broke diplomatic ties earlier this month over the Rushdie affair.

The reports also coincided with the arrival Monday in Bahrain of British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd at the start of a four-nation Gulf tour.

Iranian authorities Sunday released an Indian cargo vessel and its crew intercepted and detained by the Iranian Navy in the Gulf a week ago, an Indian Embassy spokesman in the United Arab Emirates said. The vessel was seized after straying into Iranian territorial waters.

Larijani Resigns Post; Replaced by Va'ezi

LD2603072789 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani has resigned his post and his resignation has been accepted, it was disclosed today.

According to the Public Relations Office of the Foreign Ministry, Mahmud Va'ezi, the Foreign Ministry director general for Europe has replaced Larijani.

The office said Larijani had submitted his resignation on March 19 but refused to provide further details.

The English language daily TEHRAN TIMES which also carried the news today, said Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati had "immediately" accepted the resignation.

"Informed sources" quoted by the paper, had declined to reveal further details on Larijani's resignation.

Larijani received his education in Iran and the United States. He travelled frequently in the course of his diplomatic activities. In New York he held talks with the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 which Iran accepted in July last year.

In January he travelled to Moscow along with Ayatollah Javadi Amoli to present Imam Khomeyni's historic message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

60 Navy, Air Force Officers Said Executed

TA2403181289 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] According to a report that has reached us, the Islamic Republic regime in recent days arrested and executed 60 Navy and Air Force officers. According to our fellow strugglers, it is being said in the Navy that Captain Qahreman Malekzadeh, Captain Siyavush Hakimi, and Captain Riyahi are among those executed.

Opposition Leader's Sister Reportedly Executed

NC2703122089 Paris AFP in English 1152 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, March 27 (AFP)—The sister of Iranian resistance leader Mas'ud Rajavi has been executed in Iran, a communique from Mr Rajavi Iraq-based People's Mujahadeen said here Monday.

The statement, citing "reports from Iran," said Iranian officials until now had not disclosed the date and location of the execution of Monireh Rajavi, a 38-year-old mother of two.

It said she had been tortured in Iranian prisons for six years solely because she was the sister of the Iranian resistance leader.

Her husband, Asghar Nazemi, was arrested with her in 1982 and put to death in 1985, according to the communique.

Further on Majlis Speaker's Prayers Sermon

LD2403182889 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani today dwelt on the dynamism of Islam as the universal religion capable of uniting the human race on a single platform.

In his Friday prayer sermon at Tehran University compounds, the speaker noted that "Islam is the programme of life, and not a religion without concern for the every day aspects of life of the people and society."

The difference between Islam and other creeds, said the speaker is its vivid definition of and grooming for the hereafter and its broad outlooks in the area of jurisprudence, and "these two peculiarities distinguish Islam from other religions."

"Islam has certain programmes and goals and recommends endeavour, even the toleration of hardships for attaining these lofty goals. The reality of Islam is that God has offered humanity a better programme of living, and Islam perfectly takes care of mankind's spiritual and intellectual development," he added.

On the start of the Solar Hegira year (1368), the hojjat ol-eslam said that "Islam does not prohibit New Year festivities, and the importance could be seen in Imam Khomeyni's New Year Day message. But we hope its superstitions will be done away with."

The calendar year in Iran starts March 21 (the vernal equinox), and like the Lunar Hijri year dates from Prophet Mohammad's (peace be upon him) auspicious migration from Mecca to Medina (622 AD). Nowruz (Persian for New Day) has over the centuries acquired superstitions.

Although by Islam one generally refers to the message of the Koran in fact as the Holy Book itself says, Islam (submission to none except God's commandments) was the theme of messages of all prophets around the globe, who had prophesied the advent of Mohammad (peace be upon him) as the last divine messenger with a universal religion.

Refugee problems have not yet been solved and as long as it can be afforded they should be provided for, said the Armed Forces deputy commander in chief with reference to the imam's message to war refugees last Wednesday. He urged that "help should be continued so that we can build houses and business establishments for refugees."

"We consider this system of government as well as the Islamic revolution simply as one spark of the rays of Hadhrat Mahdi [hidden imam] (may God hasten his reappearance)," said Hashemi-Rafsanjani with regards to the birth anniversary of the 12th infallible imam of the prophet's (PUBH) [peace be upon him] household which fell yesteray (Sha'ban 15).

"The future of mankind will be in the hands of those who march on the right path as well as the oppressed masses. Just people will take control on the earth, and in all societies throughout the world and especially in Islam the name of Mahdi (PBUH)—as savior of mankind—has been expressly mentioned in books. In the Psalms of David there are various indications of belief in the eventual advent of a savior, and in various other books we see the idea of gradual development of the world toward a rightful path. At any rate one day the entirety of the planet will be governed by one and only one system."

In Iran, said Hashemi-Rafsanjani "in the era of the imam of our time the government is vested in good people, because the background for acceptance of justice should be created. Today there are many people in the world who pretend to adhere to justice but who do not really want it. If they happen to acquire something then we see that they are selfish."

He urged the people to demonstrate sufficient growth for the government of Imam Mahdi (PBUH), because God will bless people with wisdom only when they create the background in themselves for accepting such justice and such a divine rule.

"With all respect to the multiplication of ideas there is only one divine rule that is capable of finding a foothold on earth, and it depends upon people's readiness to embrace piety," said Hashemi-Rafsanjani. "Of course no matter how much the corrupt abhor the idea pious peole have always been anticipating the advent of the imam of our time," he concluded.

Khamene'i Continues Visit to Khorasan Province

LD2403205289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The following is a correspondent's dispatch on President Khamene'i's trip to Khorasan Province and his remarks at a gathering of our compatriots from the border township of Torbat-e Jam:

[Unidentified correspondent] The president, Mr Khamene'i, continued his visit to the townships in Khorasan Province by attending the gathering of Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims from Torbat-e Jam in that township's sports stadium this afternoon. In his remarks he explained that the arrogant powers collaborated and united in order to attack the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran's system. He said: The day that the Islamic revolution manages to attain all its goals and Islamic aspirations through victory over political, military, economic, and cultural onslaughts, it will become a role-model for all nations throughout the world.

Mr Khamene'i then said that the Iranian people's victory over the conspiracies hatched by the Eastern and Western powers, as well as colonialism, was a source of pride. He said: The close coordination and cooperation between the people and the great leader of the revolution, as well as all the other officials in the country, is unprecedented and does not exist in any other system or country. This is due to the blessing of Islam. [passage omitted]

The president then called on the youth to pursue knowledge and abstain from corruption. He praised the unity of the Shi'ite and Sunni citizens of Torbat-e Jam, and said: The youth of this region should combat corruption and participate in the campaign against narcotics and drug smugglers. He said: We should have no mercy on the merchants of death, because they are part of a conspiracy which has been set up to fight the people and the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

Views Country's Reconstruction

LD2503210989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Our correspondent from Mashhad has sent us a report on President Khamene'i's trip to Khorasan Province and on his speech delivered to the citizens of Fariman. We draw you attention to that report:

[Passage omitted] In the course of his speech, the president remarked: We have provided the basis for the progress of our youth, and the new generation should try to benefit from the power of knowledge and wisdom, and strive to build a free, independent, flourishing, and militarily strong country.

Elsewhere in his speech, Mr Khamene'i compared the officials in charge of the country and of the divine system with the Taguti [Pharonic powers—reference to the supporters of the shah] powers and said: In the Islamic system, the basic tenet of the officials is to serve the people; personal interests are sacrificed for the sake of public interests and to please God. If someone exploits the people in order to fulfill his personal ambition, that person will undoubtedly be considered a traitor.

At the end of his speech, Mr Khamene'i remarked on the lack of facilities and military equipment that were bought but not sent by England and Italy, and the freezing of our people's assets in the United States, for the purpose of exerting pressure on this divine system. He said: The conspiracies hatched by arrogance will, in view of the country's capabilities and the people's capacities in the long run, have no effect on reconstruction. [passage omitted]

Assesses Afghanistan's Future

LD2503123689 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Mashhad, March 25, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i has called the replacement of the recently pulled-out Soviet troops by "Western elements" in Afghanistan as unacceptable.

The president was addressing a rally Friday in Torbat-e Jam, 45 kms from the Afghan border in Khorasan Province, where 75,000 Afghan refugees have been settled in camps.

"We cannot bear that the replacement of Soviet troops with Western elements," he said. "The fate of the Afghan nation is completely related to ours."

President Khamene'i who is touring the northeastern province of Khorasan also warned against propaganda aimed at creating discord among Shias and Sunnis. Half the population of Torbat-e Jam are Sunnis.

On the past-war reconstruction of the country, he referred to the enemies' efforts to create the illusion among people that the war-devastated areas could be quickly rebuilt.

"Post-war reconstruction is a battle by itself and an arduous one which is impossible to be realized without the people's support," the president emphasized.

Khamene'i has so far toured two other Khorasan cities of Fariman and Tayyebatd and held talks with the local people and officials.

Earlier he told a gathering in Mashhad that the West's participation in Iran's reconstruction was "out of the question".

"We will develop the country without needing foreign countries," he told university students.

The president reiterated that the West's obstructions were unable to affect reconstruction efforts.

Further on Afghan Situation

LD2603140789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Excerpts] We begin our news reports section with our correspondent's report based on the results of President Khamene'i's visit to Khorasan Province.

At the end of his 5-day visit to Khorasan Province President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i was seen off by the imam's representative and the custodian of the holy shrine, the governor-general of Khorasan, and other local officials of the province, around noon today. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Islamic Republic's views on Afghanistan's future, the president said:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] We are both hopeful and anxious for the future of Afghanistan. Our hope lies in the people's crusade. In the past few years, the Islamic Republic, despite much pressure, did not renege on (?supporting) Afghanistan, nor did it relinquish its decisive Islamic position. From the very beginning, we have always reiterated that the deciding factors regarding Afghanistan are the Afghan people and mujahidin. And so it proved to be. On the basis of this issue, it was proved that ultimately the principle elements are the mujahidin and the people. Therefore, our hopes are linked to these crusades and the people's steadfastness and quick response. Specifically, it is the people's quick response which is important at this juncture; they must take care not to become entangled in the deceits and shams of global arrogance.

We are anxious because we sense that some of the Western powers and reactionary governments affiliated with them have hatched plots regarding Aghanistan's future—a situation we or the Afghan people do not considered auspicious. We are anxious. We would like the future Afghan government to be first, Islamic, second, comprehensive, and third, nonaligned and unresponsive to the demands of global arrogance and affiliates within and outside the region. On the whole, these are our wishes. [end recording]

Calls Visit 'Fruitful'

LD2603151189 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., March 26, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i said today that Afghan people and mujahidin are the main element for determining the fate of Afghanistan.

"We cannot be indifferent towards Afghanistan's future," he made it clear before boarding the plane at Mashhad Airport at the end of his five-day tour of this northeastern province.

Khorasan which borders Afghanistan has a sizable refugee population, and the president exhorted Afghan Muslims to be on alert and not let the U.S. succeed the Soviets in their country.

The Islamic Republic suspects plots of Western and reactionary states in Afghanistan, and is quite naturally "concerned about the issue" he noted.

On the future of government in Afghanistan, Khamene'i said that only an Islamic and non-aligned government which truly represents all Afghan Muslims and which does not bow to the demands of global arrogance or its local and foreign allies should be elected to power.

After a decade of heroic resistance, some Afghan groups had acted rather hastily in naming an all-Pashto interim government, leaving out other mujahidin particularly the Iran-based eight-group Hazara coalition which represents the second major ethnic group.

Other major tribes left out are the Tajiks, Uzbeks, Turkomans and the million odd urbanised Khizilbash, and it is feared that Western imperialism and reactionaries have masterminded the split.

The president who also heads the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), turned to the anti-narcotics campaign launched last January, and said the government was successfully fighting death merchants.

He described his visit to the province as "fruitful" and was pleased with the unity between Shi'a and Sunni Muslims in Khorasan.

Khamene'i's 5-day trip took him to Tayyebat, Torbat-e Jam, and Fariman.

'Interference' in Turkey's Affairs Denied

NC2503090689 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Unattributed commentary: "Turkey, Yesterday and Today"]

[Excerpts] The Turkish ambassador in Tehran was summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry yesterday and informed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned

about the problems created for female students at the universities in Turkey. Furthermore, the director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry West Asian Affairs Department handed the Turkish ambassador a letter signed by 150 Majlis deputies in connection with this matter.

Conflicting reports are currently being received in connection with the situation of Islam and Muslims in Turkey, and conflicting developments are also being observed.

Although Turkey has been one of the cradles of Islamic culture and contributed valuable works of art to Islam during the past few centuries—including unique mosques and thousands of exquisite books, not to mention the more important fact that the spirit of Islam is still felt in its cities and towns—a number of Turkish officials have banned the use of Islamic veils [ortu] by the universities' female students in total disregard of the people's wishes and faith in Islam.

In a statement made some time ago, Prime Minister Ozal of Turkey said: Wearing Islamic veils—that is, the concept of complying with the hejab [Islamic attire] in a country like Turkey which is preparing to become a member of the EEC—concerns the freedom of dressing as one wishes.

However, the contrast between the statement made by an authority such as the prime minister and the reports being received from university circles, which have caused concern, creates the impression that the prime minister's approach is being ignored by the other officials.

It must be kept in mind that the Islamic Republic of Iran regards Turkey as a strong and Muslim neighbor. And the fact that Turkey has been selected from among the countries in the world as Iran's major partner in trade is due to the importance the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to the Muslim people of Turkey. Undoubtedly, the illogical pressure on the people in Turkey, who have faith in Islam and who are making an effort to safeguard and further develop their Islamic character and Muslim personality, is not a matter to be overlooked or ignored.

It is a fact that Turkey has made positive strides in its development during the past few years. However, economic development must never prevent a nation from safeguarding its sacred values and character. Regardless of whether Turkey becomes a member of the EEC or not, it is a fact that it will continue to be an Islamic country. The Muslim people of all the Islamic countries in the world have realized that economic and technological development assumes its real value when Muslim people retain their Islamic identity and refrain from making concessions concerning Islam. On the other hand, experience has proved that their real independence and freedom will be sacrificed in favor of economic and industrial development if this development is achieved at the expense of their Islamic character.

The self-sacrificing people of Iran, who have succeeded in achieving an Islamic revolution, wish to see Turkey as a free, independent, and developed country. In fact, they respect each and every initiative in that regard. However, they also wish to see the future of [word indistinct] Islam as an intellectual guarantee for their brothers and sisters. They are concerned by each and every move and initiative which prevents activities in accordance with Islamic principles.

In fact, in the message he issued on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of His Eminence the Mahdi—may God hasten his coming into being—and the Day of the Oppressed, Imam Khomeyni, who is regarded as a great Islamic leader by the Muslims, indirectly referred to the pressure brought on female Muslim students in Turkish universities and to the ban on the Islamic hejab and said voiced his concern. Furthermore, Imam Khomeyni said that such initiatives in a Muslim country like Turkey were bewildering.

Taking into consideration the good relations existing between Tehran and Ankara when the imam issued his message, his message is understood to mean that so far as Iran is concerned, economic and diplomatic ties are not the only standard by which Iran maintains ties with foreign countries: Creating an opportunity for Muslims to comply freely with Islamic principles and act in accordance with the provisions of Islam is far more important than economic relations.

Imam Khomeyni asked the Iranian officials to focus the required amount of attention on safeguarding Islamic values in all fields and relations. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the imam's statements must not be interpreted by a number of opportunists as interference in the internal affairs of a foreign country. It is not so. The concern stems from the [words indistinct] duty of each and every Muslim. Every Muslim must fulfill this task, as in the case of the attitude that was adopted against the treacherous book "The Satanic Verses." Have Muslims not displayed their opposition to this treacherous book in every corner of the world? In view of this, the propaganda spread by a number of circles suggesting that the protests by the Muslims in Turkey against the ban on Islamic attire in that country's universities are being encouraged from other places is completely unfounded and constitutes treachery against the Muslims in Turkey. This is so because each and every Muslim must fulfill his own duty.

Daily Suggests Severing Ties With Turkey

LD2603102189 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA—Severance of diplomatic ties with Ankara has been suggested by a Tehran daily because of Turkey's attitude towards Islam.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said in an editorial today that "in the same way as Iran did not care about the consequences of its decision to sever diplomatic ties with Britain because of its anti-Islamic attitude, the people of Iran would be justified in demanding similar action against a government with a great number of Muslim citizens behaving so impudently towards Islam."

The English daily was referring to the banning of Islamic dress code for girl students in Turkey and Iran's reaction against it.

It ruled out that Iran's protest was an interference in Turkey's internal affairs and said such terms as "internal affairs" and "freedom of expression" are oftenly used as "a pretext for implementing evil plots against Muslims and the oppressed people of the world."

The daily further cited several inhuman acts carried out by some governments where the world failed to react under the pretext of not meddling in the "internal affairs" of a sovereign state.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL wonders whether to consider the rulers of Turkey as believers while "they order the female students to refrain from observing the dictates of the holy Koran regarding their dress."

If they aren't Muslims, the daily questioned, how is it that they are ruling a country with an overwhelming Muslim majority?

The daily further assured that "Britain is considered to be the loser" as regards the pretext of "freedom of expression."

"The people of Iran in raising their voices against anti-Islamic plots, never pay heed to the consequences," it concluded.

EC Position on 'Collision Course' With Muslims

NC2403140289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Mar 89 p 2

[Editorial from the "Opinion" column: "ICO Firm—EEC at End of Its Tether"]

[Text] More often divided than united, the European Community (E.C.) banded together last month soon after Islamic Iran's Revolutionary Leader, Imam Khomeyni issued his Fatwa declaring the author of the sacrilegious book "The Satanic Verses" an apostate of Islam who should be put to death.

The 12-member community is due to meet again tomorrow to discuss future relations with Iran which have been disrupted as a result of the controversy which has followed the Fatwa. It is understood that this matter will top the agenda of the European Community meet that is to be held in Brussels.

Very shortly following the dispute E.C. members withdrew their ambassadors from Tehran in protest against the Imam's decree. Iran too later retaliated in the same vein. But the decision by the Majlis (Parliament) of the Islamic Republic to sever all ties with Britain gave a new dimenison to the episode.

With an incomplete and rather hazy understanding of the religious aspects of the affair, some Western analysts have attributed the controversy to Euro-Iranian relations being at loggerheads. This, however, is not the case. Iran has firmly believed that the E.C. countries will have, sooner or later, to come to realize the international aspects of the episode and will have to come around to respecting the sentiments of over a billion Muslims the world over.

As we see it, the Majlis bill was rather symbolic in the sense that it manifested Iran's dissatisfaction over the British approach to the Rushdie affair and in consequence deeply hurt the feelings of Muslims. Not content with their own erroneous judgment of the situation, they rounded up their other European allies telling them not to take sides with Iran in the issue and to be "realistic." This so-called realism has backfired and turned to be a blooper.

The fact that the political left in Iran made the best use of the opportunity to reassert its political leadership is yet another result of the controversy that ensued. But this matter has to be dealt with in another context and on another occasion in a fuller light. What is important now is to see whether the message that Iran was flashing has now got across to the European Community member states.

No doubt the E.C. at this point is not going to take any more firmer or harder measures than they have already taken. Assuming even that our prediction that the E.C. will stop short of reconsidering and reviewing any harsher measures against Iran, the likely course will be to leave decisions to be taken to members individually. Possibly also, the Community will leave the decision to return their ambassadors to Iran to the member states.

Our notion that these are the lines on which the E.C. will move in relation to the Rushdie affair, is supported by the outcome of this week's ICO meeting, where Muslim nations decreed unanimously that Rushdie was an apostate against Islam which explicitly attests the sanctioning of the death penalty against apostates such as Rushdie. There is a consensus of views among Islamic schools of thought on how apostates should be dealt with.

Another thing that the European Community must note as a collectivity very carefully is that the anti-Rushdie protests have by no means abated in the world and they can always escalate. The entire affair has been well highly internationalized. Any hardening of E.C. stances, or any more support rendered to Rushdie than what has already

been done will only put the body on a collision course with the 45 Muslim states across the world and with the hundred of million of Muslims who are part and parcel of them.

Hungary, Poland Agree To Supply SAM-7's, Ships

NC2703083089 Paris AFP in English 0802 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 27 (AFP)—Iran has signed agreements with Hungary and Poland to purchase Soviet-made SAM-7 missiles and warships, a United Arab Emirates newspaper reported Monday.

AL-ITTIHAD, quoting unnamed East European sources, said that Hungary would supply Iran with the anti-aircraft missiles and electronics systems of the type provided by Washington before the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The Abu Dhabi-based daily said Iran would also receive four warships and three support and supply vessels under a recent deal with Poland.

AL-ITTIHAD last week reported that Iran had signed accords with Czechoslovakia and Romania on arms sales and the construction of weapons factories to replenish its arsenal, which was depleted during the Gulf war.

The eight-year Iran-Iraq war, during which China and North Korea were believed to rank among Tehran's main arms suppliers, ended August 20 under a United Nations-sponsored cease-fire.

Afghan Mujahidin Leader Meets Interior Official

LD2503140589 Tehran IRNA in English 1244 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA—An Afghan mujahidin leader today said the Soviet Union and the U.S. had agreed that Afghanistan should be governed by nationalists and not by Islamic revolutionaries.

Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur, leader of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami (the Movement of the Islamic Revolution), said the two superpowers did not want revolutionaries to play a key role in the future government of Afghanistan.

Mansur, whose movement is a member of the Pakistan-based mujahidin alliance, made the remark in a meeting with Iran's Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad Sadr.

He described the absence of the Iran-based eight-party coalition in Afghanistan's interm government as "dangerous" and stressed: "We want an Islamic government based on Islam and the holy Koran."

Sadr said all Afghans should participate in administrating their country. "The problem is that some think they should seek help from foreigners to set up a government."

Such an idea should be confronted or else the future government might be influenced by the West, he said.

The Afghan guerrilla leader also voiced support for Imam Khomeyni's Fatwa [religious decree] calling for the execution of Salman Rushdie, the Indian-born British author of "The Satanic Verses."

Paper Sees Role of King Fahd in Peace With Iraq

LD2603081889 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA—An Iranian daily has voiced the conviction that the Saudi king is "the ideal person" to cause the hurdles in the way of Iran-Iraq peace be overcome so that meddling by foreign powers outside the region could be avoided.

Referring to King Fahd's current trip to Baghdad, the TEHRAN TIMES said in an editorial today that the visit occurs after assertions by Riyadh that "they are disposed to think of relations with Iran in terms of lasting and cordial ties."

"If the Saudis have really meant what they have said continuously for years to the effect that they wish to have peace prevail in the region, then they will have to find peaceful means to bridge the rifts that threaten to break the region apart."

The English daily suspected that any progress will be made in connection with the traditional rift between Syria and Iraq, which is most likely to figure in the talks in Baghdad, but it hoped that "Saudi Arabia uses this chance to turn the advantages they have into persuading Iraq to follow a realistic policy" in Iran-Iraq peace negotiations.

It further hoped that the Saudis will "keep the momentum of their own realistic foreign policies going and not allow this to be contaminated, or take any ugly turn, swayed by the euphoria that the Saudi monarch's visit to Baghdad has evoked."

"This visit is yet another occasion and an opportunity at the disposal of the Saudis to translate their intentions into practical steps," the paper said.

Armed Forces Hold Maneuvers in Bakhtaran 24 Mar

LD2503183489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] To increase the military strength of the Iranian Armed Forces, the Qa'em exercises were held by the 81st Armored Division and pilots of Bakhtaran Army Aviation Base yesterday on the heights in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.

In the exercises, which were held in two stages, the participating forces, using combat tactics and light and heavy weapons, crushed an offensive by an imaginary enemy and, with the support of Army Aviation pilots, they infiltrated enemy positions and fortifications.

The personnel of the 81st Armored Division, whose maneuvers were carried out successfully in the presence of the Ground Forces commander and a number of officials, once again demonstrated their combat readiness to safeguard the country's borders and the achievements of the Islamic revolution.

TEHRAN TIMES Cited on National Budget

LD2503074189 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA—An Iranian daily has come up in favor of the new fiscal year's national budget and has described it as "a good take-off point for peaceful reconstruction in the years ahead."

The TEHRAN TIMES in an editorial today on the new budget which was ratified by the Majlis on March 20, the final day of the past Iranian year, believed that there are "flaws in the budget" and a great deal of work has "still to be accomplished" which "can be pushed on in other budgets in the years following."

The English-language daily has also welcomed foreign borrowing. "Allowing some foreign borrowing is certainly a healthy sign and it is significant that the authorities have given importance to this aspect and permitted borrowing within safe limits," the editorial said.

The daily recalled that Iran has "a bright record of repayments" and it hoped that there would not be "difficulty in being able to contract these foreign borrowings."

According to the paper, the Ministry of Energy has been authorized to get one billion dollars of loan while permission for allocation of another 1.5 billion dollars of loan to state-owned agencies has been given.

The daily further described the economy as "stagnant" and regarded the reduction of the inflationary trends as "the first essential step."

The reduction of the defence allocations from U.S. dollars 10 billion to U.S. dollars 5.8 billion in the 140-billion-dollar budget has also been notified [as received] by the paper. "It will be advisable for the authorities to have a watchful eye on making too many drastic reductions in this sphere as long as there are plots on against the Islamic Republic of Iran," the TEHRAN TIMES underlined.

Increase in Prices Rejected

LD2503195589 Tehran IRNA in English 1930 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA—The Majlis, concerned about growing inflation, voted against raising basic food prices. The deputies rejected an article of the budget which had called for an increase in the heavily subsidized price of sugar, chicken and eggs to raise rials 13 billion (dlrs 185.7 mn).

"It isn't right to hand price increases to people across the country as a New Year's gift," said Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the March 19 session of the Majlis reported by the press Saturday after New Year holidays.

The rials 9,782.7 billion (dlrs 139.75 bn) budget for the Iranian year 1368 (began March 21) received final approval on March 20.

"Today you raise the price of sugar by a dime, tomorrow everything made with sugar, like soft drinks, pharmaceuticals, sweets and various sorts of goods will become more expensive," Hashemi-Rafsanjani added.

Two thirds of the deputies then voted to scrap the price increases altogether.

The Majlis had at first voted to keep chicken and egg prices at last year's level of about rials 265 rials (dlrs 3.78) and rials 150 rials (dlrs 2.14) per kilo respectively.

The government hoped to boost the price of chicken by rials 20 (29 cents) and egg by rials 10 (14 cents) per kilo. But after the appeal by Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, an increase in the price of sugar by rials 10 (14 cents) to rial 39 (56 cents) per kilo was also rejected.

Earlier this month the speaker had called for Imam Khomeyni's personal intervention to solve the country's economic problems, notably inflation.

The government had proposed to reduce massive subsidies on food and spend more on improving agricultural production. But deputies stressed on the inflationary side-effects it would have on the lower classes.

"Why don't you tax luxury items in Tehran... Why do you want to empty the pockets of the poor?" asked 'Ali Movahedi Savoji, representing Saveh, west of Tehran.

But responding to an appeal by agriculture minister 'Isa Kalantari, the Majlis instead allocated the exact same amount from general incomes. Of the rials 13 billion (dlrs 187.5 mn) allocated for the ministry's special plans, rials 7,000 billion (dlrs 100 mn) will be spent on boosting wheat production in irrigated farms, and rials 3,000 million (dlrs 42.8 mn) on increasing cotton production. The ministry had already been provided with dlrs 1.3 billion in foreign exchange to help Iran achieve self-sufficiency in wheat production in five years.

Meanwhile the Majlis also voted to allow the defence budget to be increased in case war broke out with Iraq again. Article 43 of the budget reads: "In case war erupts again, it is allowed that credits for defence be increased on the proposal of the acting Armed Forces commander in chief (Hashemi-Rafsanjani) and the approval of the commander in chief (Imam Khomeyni)."

No figures on defence spending were available but the daily RESALAT reported that rials 410 billion (dlrs 5.85) had been set aside to "strengthen the defence structure"—almost half last year's figure.

On the other hand nearly dlrs one billion was set aside for the reconstruction of war-devastated regions. The Majlis raised the allocation for reconstruction and war damage payments by rials 20 billion (dlrs 285.7 mn) to at least rials 69 billion (dlrs 985.7 mn). The budget bill had called for rials 49 billion (dlrs 700 mn). Money set aside for reconstruction is rials 8 billion (dlrs 114.2 mn) more than last year. The war with Iraq came to a halt on August 20, 1988.

To repair Persian Gulf oil installations damaged in the war, including Iran's export terminal at Khark, the Oil Ministry was allowed to spend the foreign exchange income from the export of up to 50,000 barrles of crude oil. North Sea crude sold for just under dlrs 18.50 per barrel earlier this week.

Other than Khark installations to be repaired are located at joint oil fields of Resalat, Do Rud, Foruzan, Hendijan, Sirri, and Nosrat.

Of the seven war-hit provinces, Khuzestan in the south took the lion's share of the reconstruction budget with rials 17.2 billion (dlrs 245 mn). Other provinces are Bakhtaran, Ilam, West Azarbayjan, Kordestan, Lorestan and Hamadan.

Ten percent of the total reconstruction funds were earmarked for payment of losses to livestock owners, agricultural land owners and date growers.

Also the Islamic Republic of Iran airline (Iran Air) was permitted to use 70 percent of the total funds amassed from the rials 20,000 (dlrs 2,857) received from every airline passenger travelling abroad to purchase new aircraft.

No details were given but in November last year Iran Air signed a letter of understanding with France's Aerospatiale for the purchase of 8 Airbus passenger planes.

End of 'Unofficial' Sector, Taxes Examined

NC2403135289 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 Mar 89 pp 1, 12

[Commentary by Ahmad Tavakkoli: "What Is the Solution?"]

[Excerpts] In order to avoid a budget deficit and its unfavorable impact, the country should definitely be run with real incomes, and real incomes are really "incomes" when they are gained from healthy production and trade and from correct management of the country's economy. Unfortunately, the cornerstone for the country's budget was predicated on oil by the dependent Pahlavi regime. This was an erratic base and, as we have seen, no spectacular or necessary changes were made to it in any case. This is why an attempt to make the budget independent from oil is necessary.

Of course, as a result of the reduction in oil sales and an increase in income from taxes, the government's income from oil has gradually decreased. For example, while in 1361 [year ending 20 March 1983] the government's income from oil was 65 percent and the remaining 35 percent came from taxes, in 1366 [year ending 20 March 1989] income from oil was 25.7 percent and the portion gained from taxes was 46 percent. The changes in the figures are mostly due to problems with the sale of oil.

If we want to have a healthy budget, we should at least ensure that the country's current expenditures come from taxes. We should use the income from oil—which is our national wealth—for investments or, in other words, for development. Last year only about one-third (35.3 percent) of the current expenditures were ensured from taxes.

Increasing income from taxes can be achieved in two ways. One is by raising tax rates or raising taxes on taxible goods. The second and correct way is to receive legal taxes from a larger number of taxpayers. [passage omitted]

The sector that makes the most profit and pays the fewest taxes is the free enterprise sector or, in other words, technicians, merchants, exporters, importers, doctors.... Out of the 103 billion tumans received from taxes last year, less than 8 billion tumans, or less than 8 percent, were paid by this group of people, while two-thirds of the gross national product goes to the services sector, a large part of which is comprised of these people.

Why? The main reason is that we have two networks—an official one and an unofficial one. Astronomical profits are made by the unofficial, illegal sector which evades taxes. And if economic pressures occur, they inflict even more harm the healthy and legal network. Most of the legal network's opposition to taxation is based on this fact and not on opposition to the principle of taxation.

We have actually created a system in which corrupt people and profiteers can, with the help of corrupt elements in the government, amass riches very quickly. And then we expect to receive taxes and to run our affairs when taxes should be gained through healthy production and work. In other words, we should do something about ending the unofficial network so that everyone can, under government supervision, engage in healthy activities. In turn, we can receive just taxes from them and not limit the people's activities. This will not only lead to plundering but will also force ordinary people into law-breaking activities. We will also want to tax those people whose incomes come from illegal means. Naturally, those who amass incomes through illegal means will also resort to similar means in order to evade taxes. [passage omitted]

Thus, the first step towaerd improving the economic situation is to reconstruct management and policies on the basis of the imam's directives and the Constitution and within the framework of the country's laws.

May God assist everyone in achieving this important end.

Nepal

Foreign Minister Leaves for Trade Talks in India

BK2603094489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0757 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Kathmandu, March 26 (AFP)—Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya left for New Delhi Sunday where he is to hold talks aimed at resolving a stalemate over trade and transit treaties, an official said.

Mr Upadhyaya was accompanied by Foreign Secretary Narendra Bikram Shah, Commerce Secretary Damodar Gautam, and the finance secretary and law secretary.

He is scheduled to hold talks later Sunday with his Indian counterpart P.V. Narshimha Rao on fresh Nepalese proposals on trade and transit treaties between the two countries.

The treaties had originally expired a year ago but had been extended. The last extension expired Thursday and India has since refused to allow goods to cross the border at most access points.

The Nepalese foreign minister is also to be the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Mr Rao, the official said.

"We are two friendly countries having good relations and understanding," Mr Upadhyaya said before leaving, but reiterated landlocked Nepal's stand that trade and transit were separate issues and should be governed by separate treaties. India has said it wants a unified treaty covering both issues.

The two issues were governed by a single treaty until separate agreements were reached in 1978. India wants to return to the pre-1978 system, but Nepal has rejected this.

"India has trade relations with over 100 countries of the world whereas (it) has transit treaties only with Nepal and Bhutan," Mr Upadhyaya said.

"We want some permanent arrangement for our approach to the sea for our exports to and imports from third countries outside India," he added.

Asked if he was going to India hopeful for a resolution to the problem, Mr Upadhyaya said: "I cannot say as to how soon the problem could be resolved but I am highly hopeful of solving the problems."

Mr Upadhyaya is scheduled to return here Monday.

The transit treaty gave Nepal access to 15 entry points across the 1,000 kilometer open border in addition to transit facilities from Bhutan and Bangladesh. Access to all but two of the 15 entry points has been closed since Friday, according to Nepalese officials.

India has warned it would stop supplying Nepal from March 31 with cooking oil, rock salt and refined petroleum products, which sparked panic-buying in Kathmandu.

Uner an agreement between the state-owned Nepalese and Indian oil corporations, Nepal imported crude oil and finished petroleum and lubricant (POL) products from the Soviet Union and the Middle East and swapped them with Indian POL products.

Under the trade treaty, no customs duties and quantitative restrictions were levied on Nepalese goods with 80 percent indigenous content and products manufactured with Indian collaboration. Excise duty on Indian imports was also refunded to the Nepalese Government.

India has had an annual quota of essential commodities, whose exports are banned to all countries except Nepal, and a revolving credit of more than 16.5 million dollars annually.

Pakistan

Bhutto Desires 'Good Relations' With USSR

BK2603030389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The prime minister has reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to develop relations with the Soviet Union. In an interview with the Austrian newspaper, THE STANDARD, Ms Benazir Bhutto said that the Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan has created an opportunity to develop good relations between the two countries. She appreciated the efforts being made by Soviet leader Gorbachev in restructuring Soviet society.

Bhutto Issues Directives on Karachi Situation

BK2503033089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] A high-level meeting in Karachi yesterday reviewed the existing law and order situation in the city and adopted measures for preventing lawlessness in the future. Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto presided over the meeting.

The conferees decided to create auxiliary forces in Karachi to strengthen the existing police force. This will be a temporary measure and this force will function until the regular police force is strengthened and appropriately equipped with arms. The meeting decided to replace the police's out-dated arms and vehicles in order to help them deal with the situation effectively. The prime minister directed that if any legal measure is needed to make the police force more effective in Karachi and other city centers, it should be studied. She directed that

the suspects identified by intelligence and other information collecting agencies in connection with the disturbances in the city on the 9th and 10th of this month should be thoroughly interrogated and be held responsible for the bloodshed.

The prime minister also directed that entry and exit points in the country should be properly administered and monitored to check movement of foreigners. She ordered maximum alertness in this respect. Moreover, it was decided to improve the procedure of registering foreigners in order to forestall their tendency to stay beyond the limit.

The prime minister asked the Interior Department to ensure more effective coordination between the various intelligence agencies. The meeting decided to increase the level of training and education for police personnel in general and police inspectors in particular.

The meeting was attended by the Sind chief minister, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Federal Health Minister Syed Amir Hyder Qazmi, the special assistant to prime minister on national security, Retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, and top officials of the concerned departments.

Ishaq Khan, Bhutto Meet U.S Congressional Group

BK2703041489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] A delegation of women members of the U.S. Congress has had separate meetings with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto. They exchanged views on the relations between Pakistan and the United States.

The president said that the two countries hold identical views on the regional situation. The U.S. Congress members commended the role of Ghulam Ishaq Khan in restoring democracy in Pakistan and his adherence to the Constitution.

During their meeting with the prime minister, the members extended wholehearted support to Pakistan's policies and its position on Afghanistan. They also held talks on the prime minister's forthcoming visit to the United States.

Muhajir Leader Demands Equality for All Citizens

BK2603063889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Muhajir Qaumi Movement leader Altaf Hussain has said that all citizens in Pakistan enjoy equal rights, and they should live together as brothers to make the country strong and prosperous. Addressing a Karachi function, he demanded the arrest of armed attackers and killers of innocent people and an immediate end to the arrest of innocent people.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Rebel Leader Threatens Renewed Warfare

BK2503103089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1018 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] New Delhi, March 25 (AFP)—A Tamil rebel leader warned Saturday that separatists in Sri Lanka would take up arms laid down two years ago if Colombo does not treat them equally with the Sinhalese majority.

"If the government does not give equal rights (to Tamils), we will have to go back to the old days," Amirthalingam Selvam, general secretary of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), said in an interview here with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "There will be no other option," he said.

Mr. Selvam spoke a day after the Tamil chief minister of Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province threatened a "bloodbath" if Colombo did not grant more autonomy to his newly formed Tamil-dominated provincial government.

The TELO, now a political party with two members in Parliament, was among five major Tamil separatist groups which surrendered their arms under a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord. That agreement sought to end a bloody campaign for an independent Tamil state called Eelam.

Mr. Selvam, who is heading a four-member TELO delegation for talks with Indian officials, said Colombo continued to discriminate against Tamils but did not give details of his assertion.

He also said the Sri Lankan Government had failed to release about 100 Tamil rebels from prison as specified by the 1987 accord.

The general secretary demanded a Tamil police force in the island's north and east where India has some 50,000 peacekeeping troops as well as increased representation for Tamils in the defence forces, which are now monopolised by the Sinhalese.

"Indian troops should remain (in Sri Lanka) till such a Tamil force comes up," Mr. Selvam added.

He charged that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which is continuing the Tamil separatist war, was being backed by "foreign forces" inimical to India.

The LTTE has repudiated the peace pact and more than 3,000 suspected rebels and Indian soldiers have died in fighting since October 1987.

"LTTE has foreign support," Mr. Selvam said. "Today it has more weapons than before the accord. Many of the arms that it possesses are not available in the open market." But he and his colleague Srikkant refused to name the countries allegedly arming the LTTE.

Mr. Selvam said the TELO had urged the Indian Government to try to bring the LTTE into the "democratic mainstream" by holding negotiations with it.

"We are making this plea because that is what our people want, not because we are afraid of them (the LTTE)," he added.

The TELO, once considered the biggest Sri Lankan Tamil separatist group, was in April-May 1986 virtually decimated by the LTTE in a fratricidal war which killed more than 150 TELO members and its leader, Sri Sabaratnam.

The TELO delegation, which arrived here March 16, has held talks with the Indian minister of state for external affairs, Kanwar Natwar Singh, and other officials. It is to meet Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant on Monday [27 March].

Tamil 'Secret Agent' Arrival Evokes Concern
BK2503112889 Colombo SUN in English
6 Mar 89 p 5

[Editorial: "Tamil Nadu Intrusion"]

[Text] Politicians across the Palk Straits have become overtly concerned over the well-being of their colleague Gopalaswamy who reportedly smuggled himself into Sri Lanka a few weeks ago.

His arrogant intrusion without showing any respect or regard for this country's sovereign right, and without a visa, of course, rightly generated discomfiture at diplomatic levels.

The foreign minister ordered an investigation on the reported entry of Gopalaswamy which was first reported here in this newspaper. Perhaps, our mission in Madras may have by now sent in an aide memoire on this deplorable fait accompli that must have also caused embarrassment to India, our friendly neighbour.

According to latest relations in Tamil Nadu by no less a person than its Chief Minister, Gopalaswamy had admitted in some correspondence that he was on a spy mission to seek an interview with Tiger [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] Chief Velupillai Prabhakaran in the wilds of the Wanni.

At a time when this elusive terrorist leader, having repudiated the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord, is waging a war against the IPKF [Indian Peace Keeping Force], the Tamil Nadu nosey-parker's erratic intrusion needs total condemnation by both India and Sri Lanka.

What he had accomplished is a deliberate criminal misadventure.

So far, the Indian Government has remained cautiously silent over the reported illegal entry, while the state government seems to take a very patronising attitude towards it, almost suggestive of tacit approval.

As far as the busy bodies of Tamil Nadu are concerned their "secret agent", it appears had undertaken a mission aimed at promoting the cause of Tamil separatism in the country. A renewed call for this dangerous and contentious issue seems to simmer behind the scenes once again in Tamil Nadu.

Chief Minister Karunanidhi has persistently upheld the Eelam aspiration of the Tamil militants. And like the Tiger he may probably not change his "stripes". Once before Tamil Nadu lauded a similar intrusion by another spy called Nedumaran.

But the Government of Premier Rajiv Gandhi performing the task of restoring peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka must take the latest incident seriously before things get out of control across the Palk Straits. It had pledged to uphold the unitary status of Lanka and guarantee its sovereignty.

Unfortunately an Indian politican had deemed it right to violate all those lofty promises not caring a tinker's cuss about contaminating the good relations between two friendly nations. Or does he think that Sri Lanka is nothing but a vassal state where he could indulge in his hegemonical deviations?

Either the IPKF or the Lankan authorities must take him into custody if he is still loitering around in the North-East regions. He deserves to be charged under the Sri Lankan laws of illicit immigration.

But if the migratory cuckoo has already flown away, the Indian Government should mete out justice over there, thus establishing their own bona fides about the peace role they play here today.